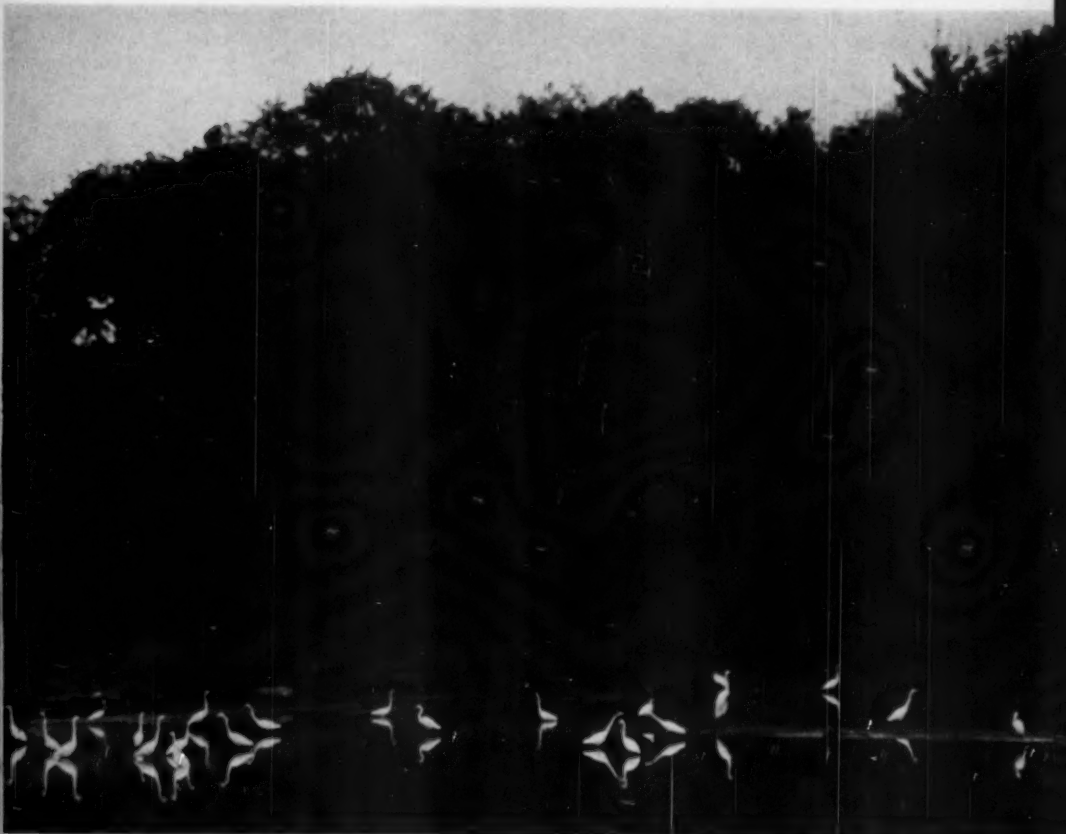


# The BULLETIN

OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY



AMERICAN EGRETS IN THE BERKSHIRES

Alvah W. Sanborn

Vol. XXXIV

JUNE, 1950

No. 5

**MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
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OF THE

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VOL. XXXIV, No. 5

JUNE, 1950

### **CONTENTS**

	<i>Page</i>
The President's Page . . . . .	Robert Walcott 186
Our Newest Sanctuary, Pleasant Valley, in the Berkshire Hills . . . . .	187
A Sanctuary is Born . . . . .	John B. May 189
Pioneer Days at Pleasant Valley . . . . .	Maurice Broun 193
Pleasant Valley Twenty Years After . . . . .	Alvah W. Sanborn 197
The Future of Pleasant Valley . . . . .	C. Russell Mason 200
Greetings from Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Inc. . . . .	Robert Crane 203
How to Reach Our Sanctuaries . . . . .	204
A Guide to Bird-Watching in Massachusetts (Parts V and VI) . . . . .	John B. May 205
From Our Educational Department . . . . .	212
"Audubon in Massachusetts" . . . . .	214
Notes from the Sanctuaries . . . . .	215
Summer Symphony . . . . .	Margaret Warren 218
A Promising Young Bird Painter . . . . .	Alvah W. Sanborn 220
Giving Versus Receiving (Membership Notes) . . . . .	220
Purple Martins in New Hampshire . . . . .	Helen B. Foster 222
New Books . . . . .	223
Letters and Field Notes . . . . .	226-229

## The President's Page



HOWARD S. BABBITT, JR.

A group of School Children at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary.

Twenty-five years ago Dallas Lore Sharp wrote, in his book *Sanctuary! Sanctuary!* these timely words:

"Stop killing and start creating. Stop cutting and start planting. Stop wasting and start saving. Stop hunting and start watching. Stop hating and start loving. These are the ten commandments of conservation for each of us within his own dooryard and neighborhood, over his own ranch and farm; a sower of seed, a planter of trees, a nourisher of life where heretofore we have each plucked and burned and slaughtered."

With that as a text he preached the gospel of conservation to the members of the Lenox Garden Club, and thereby sowed the seed which has germinated and grown and blossomed as the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary. And the ultimate fruit of that planting he stated in that same book *Sanctuary! Sanctuary!* to be that—

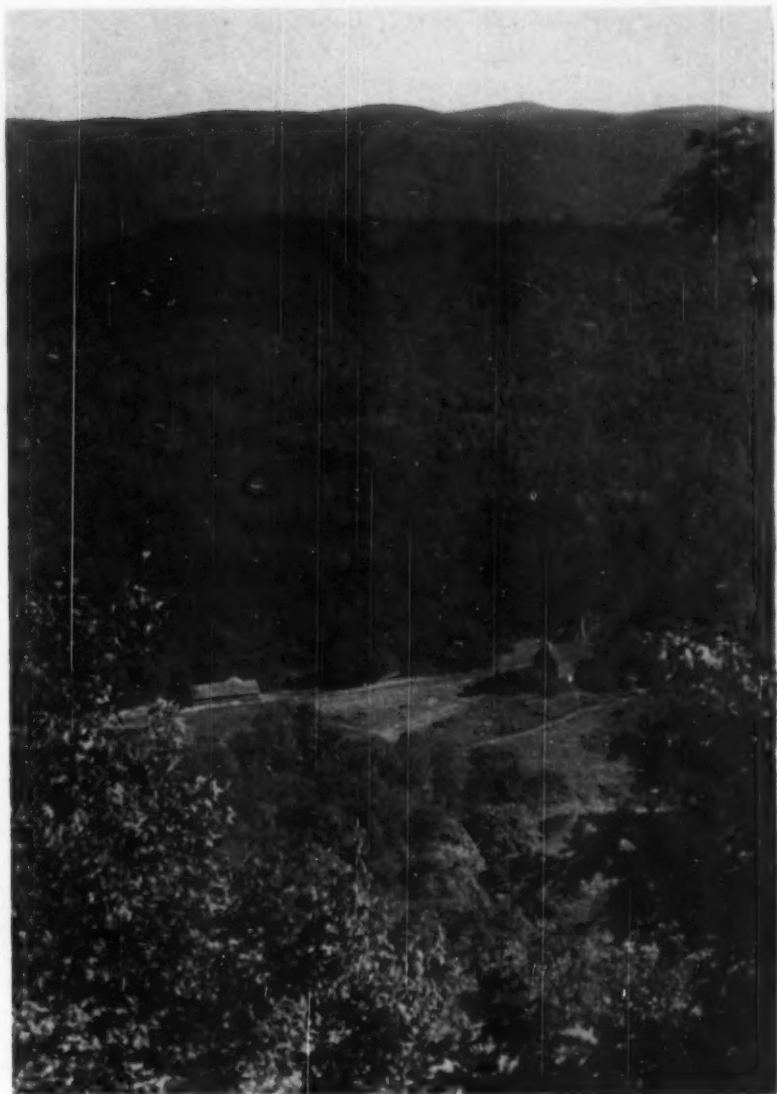
"In every schoolroom up and down the land, and across from shore to shore, let talk about birds and beasts and flowers and trees be started, let tramps afield be taken, and so, in every school-child's heart let love be planted, till knowledge of conservation be next to reading, writing and arithmetic, and love of nature next to love of God and neighbor."\*

\*From *Sanctuary! Sanctuary!* by Dallas Lore Sharp. Harper & Brothers, New York and London, 1926.

Robert Walcott

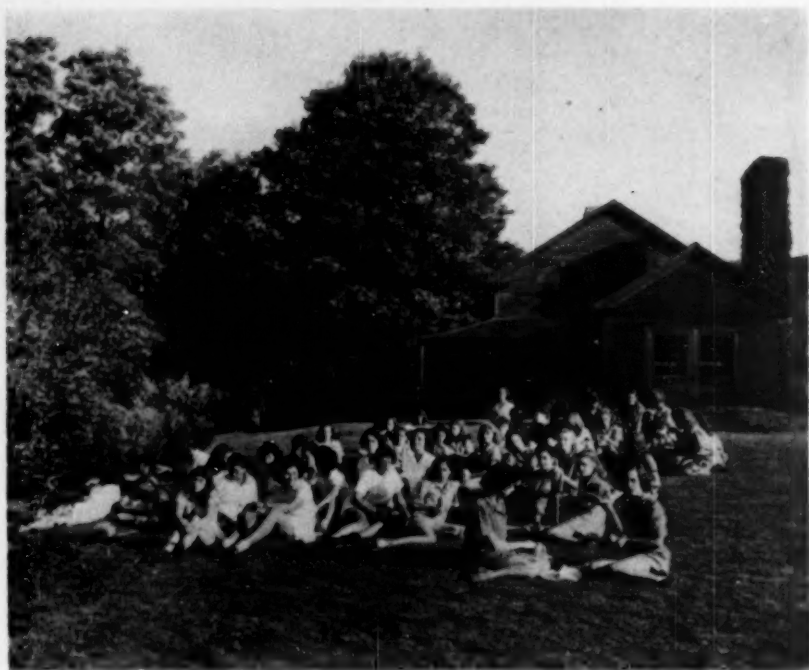


Our Newest Sanctuary  
**PLEASANT VALLEY**  
In the Berkshire Hills



ALVAN W. SANBORN

A bird's-eye view of the Sanctuary from high up on Lenox Mountain, showing the new Trilside Museum, the Clearing, the Cottage and the Old Barn, and below these, a tiny bit of Pike's Pond.



S. WALDO BAILEY

A group of nature students at Pleasant Valley.

### **Pleasant Valley Joins the Massachusetts Audubon Society**

For a number of years membership in the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Inc., has automatically included membership in the larger Massachusetts Audubon Society, and the two organizations, assisted by the Berkshire Museum, have co-operated in carrying on educational work in natural science and conservation in Berkshire County. The Audubon Society has sent its teachers to the schools throughout the county and has helped financially in many ways, while the physical properties of the Sanctuary have been freely used by the Society in carrying on its projects.

By the recent action of the Trustees of the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, all its properties are being transferred to the Massachusetts Audubon Society, "lock, stock and barrel," and Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Inc., ceases to be a distinct local entity but is consolidated with the larger State-wide organization.

We believe that all friends of Pleasant Valley and of the Massachusetts Audubon Society will rejoice in this consummation. The fact that two of the Trustees of Pleasant Valley are Honorary Vice-Presidents of the Massachusetts Audubon Society and two others are Directors, and that members of the Board of Trustees of the Sanctuary are being asked to act as an Advisory Committee for Pleasant Valley, ensures the continuation of the Sanctuary's policies under the larger organization.

## A Sanctuary is Born

BY JOHN B. MAY



COURTESY BERKSHIRE HILLS CONFERENCE

"We drove in over a rough dirt road, under a fine arcade of sugar maples, canoe birches and other trees."

It was soon after the publication of his book of nature essays, *Sanctuary!* that the late Dallas Lore Sharp was invited to address the Garden Club of Lenox, Massachusetts, and following his inspiring talk a group of the club members, including Miss Mary Parsons, Miss Heloise Meyer, and Bishop Thomas Frederick Davies among its most active participants, met together to discuss Professor Sharp's remarks and to consider the possibility of developing a wildlife sanctuary or refuge in the Berkshire Hills region.

Several informal meetings were held by this group, where the requirements of such a sanctuary were carefully weighed, ways and means discussed, and possible localities considered critically. A tract of land not far from Lenox Village was found to be available, and I was asked to come to Lenox to examine the tract and report to the group on its desirability for a wildlife refuge. So started my interest in the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, a score of years ago.

The area which the group had under consideration at that time consisted, as I recall it today, of a tract of perhaps twenty acres in extent, part of it covered by a grove of tall trees—maples, birches, hickories, hornbeams, and others; another section was open meadowland, with a swampy patch at one end where cattails were growing. There was little undercover beneath the trees, and the meadow was grown up with shrubby cinquefoil, steplebush, and similar growths, and the entire tract looked as though it had once been an overgrazed pasture and neglected wood lot. The high thin woods looked attractive for such birds as vireos, Scarlet Tanagers, and Wood Pewees; the meadow for sparrows, Towhees, Brown Thrashers, possibly Bobolinks or Meadowlarks; there were a few Red-wings and a Northern Yellow-throat calling in the low wet corner. Winter finches would find food among the meadow weeds and the birches and hornbeams of the woodland, and migrating warblers and other birds might find it attractive. But there was nothing outstanding about it to distinguish it from a thousand other such areas in the Berkshires, except its nearness to Lenox and the fact that it could be purchased reasonably. And I so reported at the evening meeting of the sponsoring group, adding that the seasonal population of birds might probably be considerably increased by the use of bird houses, feeders and baths, and by judicious plantings.

And then one of the group asked me the sixty-four-dollar question, "Is it really necessary for us to build a cat-proof fence all the way around that twenty-acre lot? The fence will cost more than the land itself."

And my answer was a definite "No." I suggested that the purchase of a couple of five-dollar, "catch-'em-alive" cat traps would serve their purpose in controlling the depredations of stray cats, of skunks, and of resident woodchucks, and that they could use the difference in cost in acquiring more land.

So the twenty-acre lot went unfenced and unpurchased, and the group looked around a little longer, and finally decided upon the nucleus of the present Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, several hundred acres of mixed woodlands and swamp and abandoned pasture land on the eastern slope of Lenox Mountain about two miles northwest of Lenox Village.

This was still in an entirely undeveloped condition when I first visited the proposed sanctuary in 1928. We drove in over a rough dirt road, under a fine arcade of sugar maples, canoe birches and other trees, where great clumps of cinnamon and interrupted ferns almost hid the mossy stone walls on either side. We stopped at a gap in one of the walls and climbed over an ancient set of pasture bars, to examine a tumble-down old barn and discuss the question of whether its great hand-hewn timbers were still usable as a frame for the shelter which must be prepared for the warden who was to supervise the projected reservation. Then we followed on foot the faint traces of a long-unused cart path to an alder swamp where a tiny brook sauntered leisurely among the grass tussocks and sprawling bushes.

Across the brook the slope of the land rose abruptly and we clambered upward through the tall second-growth forest to a ledge near the summit of the

ridge, where we stopped to enjoy the wide-spreading panorama of the beautiful Berkshire hills and valleys, having passed in a few minutes of climbing from the abandoned pastures and the alder swamp to a region of mountain laurel and hemlocks, with a corresponding change in the accompanying bird life.

Almost the only sign of man's presence, from this lofty outlook, was a small grassy clearing directly below us, with an unpainted farmhouse, a barn and other outbuildings, where we could see chickens, a dog or two, and a swarm of pickaninnies in the cluttered back yard, the nearest neighbors of the prospective sanctuary and its warden. Down the valley to the northeast, in the distance, one or two other farms could be located, but the forest cover was unbroken in most of the scene.

It needed very little imagination for one to recognize the fine possibilities of this site. The varied terrain, the altitudinal range of several hundred feet, the small but ever-flowing brook, the rich variety of flora and fauna already present, the scenic spots available when trails should be marked to the high ledges and on to the sky line boundary, the seclusion on a little-used back road and yet the easy accessibility from Lenox and Pittsfield—each detail held its appeal and its place in the completed plan, and I was "sold" on Pleasant Valley from the very first moment when I viewed it.

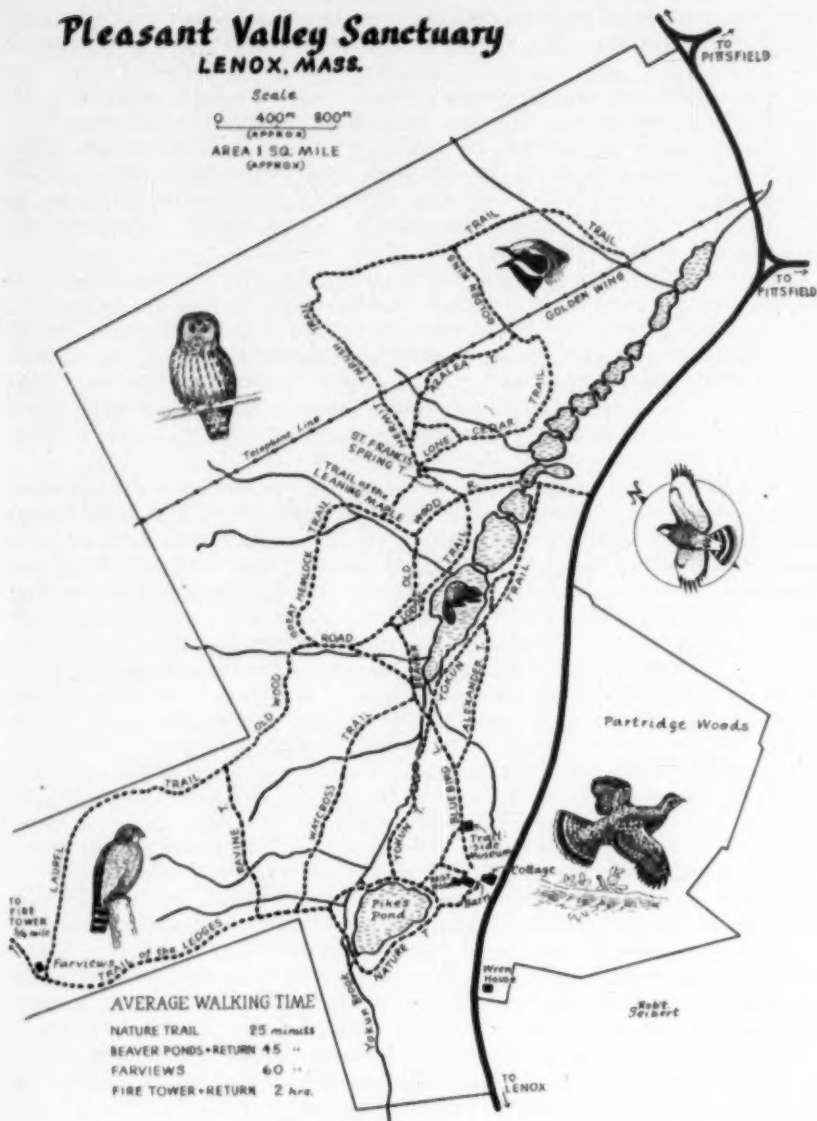
The garden club members who were especially interested in the sanctuary project were now organized as the Pleasant Valley Bird and Wild Flower Association, for convenience in handling the new venture, with Bishop Davies as President, Miss Mabel Choate, Vice-President, Mrs. Frederick G. Crane, Secretary, and Miss Jane Peters, Treasurer. I congratulated them on their good judgment and fine choice of a sanctuary site, but I urged them to acquire, if possible, the disreputable-looking farmhouse adjoining the original purchase, remodeling the building as necessary rather than attempting to rebuild the old tumble-down barn as originally suggested. And then I made what I think was my most important contribution to the project, a recommendation that the sanctuary be developed as a cross section of Berkshire County wildlife, both its fauna and its flora. It seemed a wonderful opportunity for the group, interested as they were in plants as well as in birds and other animals, to establish an herbarium-arboretum of wild plants native to Berkshire County rather than a mere "bird sanctuary." There was already a fine variety of indigenous plants growing on the property, and other natives of the county could be added from time to time, in their proper habitats. I urged that *no exotics* be planted anywhere, *except* that berry-bearing trees and shrubs, etc., might be introduced near the proposed headquarters building for their value as bird food. And *all* wild creatures should be protected at all times, including all native "predators," so-called, but not cats, rats, or other introduced pests.

My last step (and not my least important one) in helping to start the Pleasant Valley Bird and Wild Flower Sanctuary toward its present position as headquarters for much of the natural science teaching in the Berkshire region, was to suggest to the organizers the name of their first sanctuary superintendent, Maurice Broun, who had been my fellow worker on the *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States* under its author, the late Edward Howe Forbush, and, on Mr. Forbush's retirement as Director of Ornithology of Massachusetts, my own assistant in carrying that work to its completion. Maurice Broun's story of the early days at Pleasant Valley rounds out my own account of its "birning."



## Pleasant Valley Sanctuary LENOX, MASS.

Scale  
0 400' 800'  
(APPROX)  
AREA 1 SQ. MILE  
(APPROX)



The irregular boundaries of Pleasant Valley Sanctuary enclose approximately 640 acres or one square mile in area, with an altitudinal range of about 750 feet.



## Pioneer Days at Pleasant Valley

BY MAURICE BROWN

I have been asked to write an article on the early days at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, and how it looked to me, the Sanctuary's first warden. Twenty-one years have passed since I first laid eyes on that charmingly diversified terrain. During these years I have had a hand in the making of nature trails and the establishment of similar sanctuaries in five different States. But Pleasant Valley was my first love, and the nearly three years that I spent in the initial development—the pioneering phase—of this sanctuary, I count the most stimulating in my experience. Many hundreds of people have found deep enjoyment and inspiration at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary; I have found it a proving ground, a springboard to a career which I would exchange for no other.

Looking back to those first days at Pleasant Valley, I marvel that, though I was not yet of age, I had the good fortune to be selected for its stewardship. It was Dr. John B. May, one of my early mentors, who, with extraordinary confidence, had generously recommended me to the founders of the Lenox sanctuary. As a boy, accustomed to the pavements of Boston, I had made occasional trips to the Moose Hill Sanctuary of the Massachusetts Audubon Society at Sharon, to see birds and to talk with Mr. Harry Higbee, the Sanctuary's kindly, knowledgeable first superintendent. These youthful excursions constituted my only contact with a wildlife reservation. I was on fairly good speaking terms with the birds, but my botanical knowledge was almost nil. It was with some misgivings, therefore, that I took the job at the Pleasant Valley Bird and Wild Flower Sanctuary, as it was then known.

Pleasant Valley, with its rolling pastures, old orchards, extensive alder swamps, richly wooded hillside, and cascading brooks, possessed all the requirements of an ideal bird sanctuary. It was seventh heaven to a city lad who had always had a hankering to live among Whip-poor-wills and Woodchucks. Now that that hankering was realized, how was a warden to hold down his job? I had only the vaguest notion. What was one to do with Woodchucks, Woodcock, and all the other wonders within two hundred acres of seventh heaven?

I arrived in the Berkshires in early January, 1929. The Sanctuary was deep in snow and ice. And I was deep in doubt. Except for Ruffed Grouse and Chickadees, bird life was scarce. Gray Squirrels, Rabbits, and Foxes were more in evidence. The dead of winter, I discovered, was no time to warm up to this project. Those first few weeks getting oriented were bewildering, soul-searching weeks for me.

There were no buildings on the Sanctuary when I came upon the scene, except for an old barn, in which the trustees held occasional meetings, sitting on piles of hay. I lived with a family named Rousseaux, on the Pittsfield-Lenox highway, and I used to walk back and forth to work. I rented a room at the Baker farm, near the Sanctuary, and this was my workshop that first winter—it was an unheated room, too.

Several weeks passed during which, in spite of snow-blocked roads, frozen ears and feet, I became acquainted with Pleasant Valley. Familiarity brought with it a realization that this was a *natural* sanctuary. The varied terrain had an abundance of excellent cover and food-plants for wildlife. I also discovered

many fascinating natural features: shadowy glens and gorges, cathedral aisles of hemlocks, boulder-strewn streams, magnificent masses of mountain laurel. These features eventually earned such charming names as the "Bishop's Glen" (honoring Bishop Davies, the Sanctuary's first president), "St. Francis' Spring," "Hemlock Gorge," "Laurel Trail," to name but a few. I began to see possibilities. I began to see how I could justify a salary substantially greater than anything I had previously earned, at great toil. And above all, perhaps I might justify Dr. May's confidence in me!

Then one bright morning I awoke with a complete mental blueprint, a plan, which I hastily unfolded to Miss Mary Parsons, just in time to dispel her doubts about Dr. May's inexperienced young protégé. My plan was enthusiastically received by Miss Parsons and Miss Heloise Meyer, both of whom, I early realized, were the moving spirits of the Sanctuary, as well as the chief fund-producers. Meanwhile I had displayed some industry by assembling, with the help of the local sawmill, an assortment of 225 simple but practical bird-boxes. (These were later distributed, in part, along the borders of the alder thickets and pastures, and twenty per cent of them were soon occupied.) With the help of Farmer Baker and his horse, I hauled out of the woods innumerable chestnut logs to be "planted" and used to support the bird-boxes.

My plan of development entailed the construction of a network of trails (marked with rustic signposts) to connect all the outstanding points of interest; the careful location and erection of my bird-boxes; the planting of berry-bearing shrubs and wild flowers in certain areas; the erection of feeding stations for the birds; construction of rustic bridges across the sparkling Yokun Brook; locating the boundaries (poorly defined) and wiring and posting them; preparation of a map of the area, drawn to scale; and the elimination of two very large, unsightly dumps. All this was merely by way of a start—from scratch. Obviously I needed help. Miss Parsons promptly approved, and before long I obtained the able assistance of Charlie Hartman. Charlie was slight, with a nervous disorder acquired as an overseas veteran of World War I. But he was energetic, completely reliable, and, fortunately for all of us, he caught the spirit of the place and the work.

Day after day work proceeded on the trails, which were planned with scrupulous attention to detail. The making of winding, attractive footpaths to follow easy contours, taking in beauty spots, was difficult and often back-breaking. Building the comfortable trail to "Farviews," through the dense tangles of laurel, over steep, rock ledges high up on Lenox Mountain, was the most exhausting trail project I have ever undertaken. By the late summer of 1929 we had about three miles of trails to our credit. By the end of 1930 we had completed two more miles of trails, and, to our great satisfaction, the trails that year were enjoyed by more than four thousand visitors, among them many groups of boy scouts and girl scouts.

I identified upwards of 136 kinds of birds at the Sanctuary, about half of which were summer residents, pointing up the fact that Pleasant Valley was as good a place for bird-watching as any other comparable area in Berkshire County. The birds that afforded me the most pleasure, I think, were the Chickadees, Woodcock, and the Hermit Thrushes. It was thrilling, each spring, to watch the mating flights of the Woodcock in various corners of the Sanctuary. The matutinal hymns of the Hermit Thrushes instilled in me enough religion and inspiration to last a lifetime. And as for Chickadees, my favorite birds, nowhere else have I found them so numerous as they were at Pleasant Valley.

(I banded eighty Chickadees there one winter.) At "St. Francis' Spring" I often had Chickadees alight on my head or on my outstretched hands, for sunflower seeds, and several times the sprites took suet held between my lips!

We also transplanted 2,100 nursery plants of twelve species, including cardinal flowers, gentians, trilliums, and several kinds of orchids. To improve my limited botanical knowledge I often spent long evenings identifying and cataloguing plant material picked up along the trails in the course of a day's work. Within a year I listed 240 kinds of wild flowers and twenty-six kinds of ferns growing within the Sanctuary—a far from complete list—and I also learned all the trees, which were considerable. Before the close of that first strenuous year (I'm sure it would kill me to do it today!) we had completely fulfilled my objectives, as outlined above.



BARTLETT HENDRICKS

**The Superintendent's Cottage, Pleasant Valley.**

husband had a refuse-removal business, in the town of Lenox. And so a generation of Lenox rubbish accumulated in Pleasant Valley. Charlie Hartman and I slaved for weeks burning up, or covering up, the one and only blemish in that otherwise lovely valley. I remember the experience clearly, for occasionally, for recreation after a day's work, I'd hie to the dump with a .22 calibre rifle and pop off rats, until I became quite an expert rifleman.

Extensive alterations on the old, weather-stained Crockett house (built shortly after the Revolutionary War) were hardly under way when I moved in. It was like living in a barn. The house was quaintly but comfortably remodelled, however, just before cold weather set in. The upstairs rooms were assigned to me, while the ground floor was made into a Tea Room and meeting place.

About this time the old Longfellow House in Pittsfield was being torn down. It contained much fine lumber and woodwork, waiting to be salvaged. With characteristic vision and energy, Miss Parsons arranged for the acquisition of this material, and—presto!—the Crockett barn was transformed. Workmen swarmed all over the place. Soon the old barn was reconstructed—a beautiful job, distinguished by its simplicity—and ready to house a large collection of antiques, a small museum, a library, a workshop, and a garage.

Late in 1929 the trustees acquired an additional fifty acres of farmland, belonging to Mrs. Harriet Crockett, a delightful lady, a colored aristocrat, who later ran the Sanctuary Tea Room. The property included a house, a barn, and an enormous dump swarming with rats. Long before the Sanctuary was established, Mrs. Crockett's

The barn is a memorial to Miss Parsons' excellent taste and planning, for she supervised all the details of construction, and I venture to say that she contributed the lion's share of the expense. Miss Parsons was one of the most extraordinary women I have ever known. The Sanctuary developed as rapidly as it did only because of her generosity, enthusiasm, and indefatigability.



ALVAN W. SANBORN

The Sanctuary Barn, Pleasant Valley.

The barn was filled in an incredibly short time with a remarkable collection of Shaker furniture and other objects of early American crafts, all gathered and arranged by Miss Parsons. A part of the barn, however, was reserved for me, and after the second winter, during which I occupied myself with the preparation of exhibit material, there evolved an informal trailside

museum. There were no stuffed specimens, mind you! My museum consisted of a collection of mounted ferns attractively framed, wood samples representing the trees of the county, a collection of birds' nests, terrariums, electrical bird and flower charts which afforded me enormous pleasure in devising, sundry educational games and charts with the emphasis on wildlife conservation, and, finally, a large relief map showing all the details of the then known Sanctuary.

A nature trail to complement the museum was a "must." The half-mile trail, roughly circular, replete with interesting plantings and tricky labels, took shape the summer of 1930. This was a delightful project. Its success was happily evident from the beginning by the heavy use it received.

Thus I have attempted to summarize my experiences and the scope of my activities at Pleasant Valley. Nor does this begin to tell the whole story, for there were numerous minor activities, such as operating a bird-banding station, landscaping the vicinity of the barn and the cottage, conducting nature hikes, and lecturing in near-by communities. A dull day at Pleasant Valley was unimaginable. In such a place one may find a lifetime of opportunities for useful work.

After nearly three years of furious creative activity coupled with physically exhausting work, a great restlessness came over me. Instead of taking a good, long vacation, which had been urgently and wisely recommended by the Sanctuary trustees, I chose to leave the Valley. And this, even as the depression stalked grimly through the land! It was quite understandable that many of my friends thought I was completely mad; for Pleasant Valley had begun to attract universal attention. Undoubtedly I was a "mad hatter"; I have never

argued that accusation! I only know that nervous exhaustion impairs judgment. Perhaps my leaving was all for the best, for the years have dealt kindly with me, and I have made good use of the valuable experiences that I gleaned as a novice at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary.

Naturally I have watched with much interest the turn of events at Pleasant Valley. The succession of gifted directors has been marked by their special contributions. The Sanctuary has long since "grown up" and it has served importantly in the educational and cultural life of the Berkshires; it has been an inspiration to countless thousands of visitors from far and wide; it has achieved a nation-wide reputation as an ideal demonstration refuge. Now, as it comes under the efficient administration of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Pleasant Valley has our blessings, and a toast to a brilliant future.

## Pleasant Valley Twenty Years After

BY ALVAH W. SANBORN



Alvah W. Sanborn, Superintendent  
at Pleasant Valley.

and hemlock pockets, the terrain offers food and shelter and nesting sites to a sizable wildlife population.

In 1929, when the Sanctuary was founded, there were no natural ponds, but soon thereafter Pike's Pond was created at considerable expense as a memorial to William Pike. In 1932 S. Morris Pell, then Director, conceived the idea of introducing Beaver to the area. Two objectives were in mind, namely, to reintroduce this most interesting and valuable mammal at Pleasant Valley and to get the Beaver to construct a number of natural ponds which

As Director of Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, I am greatly pleased at the change which has taken place in the transfer of the Sanctuary to the Massachusetts Audubon Society. It is very much like a Territory becoming a State in the Union. Both organizations should profit greatly. In Pleasant Valley the Massachusetts Audubon Society acquires a sanctuary already more than twenty years old. It has a fine large piece of property, an abundance of wildlife, unusual beauty, and an active, growing program.

The nature-loving visitor is naturally most interested in the wildlife to be seen here. With its variations in altitude from 1220 feet, where Yokun Brook flows off the Sanctuary, to the top of Lenox Mountain at 1972 feet, and with different habitats—beaver ponds and cattail marshes, open fields, brush lots, birch and pine woods, and beech





S. WALDO BAILEY

**A Beaver works on its lodge at Pleasant Valley.**

would draw in some of the species which require a pond habitat. The venture was one hundred per cent successful, for, not only have the Beaver proved a source of interest to visitors, but they have constructed many dams and several ponds of considerable size. Along the edges of these ponds cattails have sprung up, and, as a result, Wood Ducks, Black Ducks, Green Herons, and Bitterns—rare or unknown at the Sanctuary before the introduction of the Beaver—now nest, and, in addition, other waterfowl, like the Greater Yellowlegs, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Egret, and others, visit the ponds on occasion.

During the last twenty years 186 species of birds have been observed, and each year about 120 species are seen. About sixty species spend the summer months on the Sanctuary. Among the more interesting nesting birds are the Barred Owls, which regularly nest on our wooded slopes, and the Red-shouldered Hawks, which may be seen wheeling high over the valley. From many a lichen-covered rock and mossy log Ruffed Grouse may be heard drumming in the spring, and occasionally in the fall. The Pileated Woodpecker nests near by and often is heard from the cottage or seen winging its way across the valley. Woodcock nest in the alder thickets, and in March and April the active observer will be rewarded by an early evening trip to the singing grounds to watch the courtship flights. Later in the spring this same area will ring to the *way-be-o* of the Alder Flycatchers, and the beautiful Golden-winged Warblers may be seen flashing in and out among the branches in search of insect prey. The Veery's song is heard in many places in the valley at the approach of summer twilight, while high on the slopes in the dark hemlock gorges the Hermit Thrush sings its wonderful song. Among the rocks by the rushing waters of Yokun Brook the Louisiana Water-Thrush bobs about as it looks for insects to take back to its young in a fern-draped nest on the bank. Down in the ponds the dapper Wood Duck nests in dead trees and in boxes erected for that purpose.



Spring migration is always good through Pleasant Valley and reaches its peak near the middle of May, while the fall migration is even better and reaches its peak shortly after the middle of September.

Mammals are more elusive than birds, as they are mostly nocturnal in habit, but, besides the Beaver, Foxes, Skunks, and Raccoons are quite common. The rodents are well represented, including surprisingly large numbers of Flying Squirrels, a pair of which even spent the winter of 1946 in the attic of the Director's cottage. Deer pass through occasionally. Bobcats have been reported in earlier days and undoubtedly visit the area regularly, if they do not actually den here.

If you would like to see the Beaver, visit the ponds at the approach of, or just after, sunset. Since 1932 they have multiplied, but many of them through the years must have gone off the property downstream. The area cannot support a large population of these big rodents. As it is, their favorite food, the aspen, is completely removed from any areas where Beaver can get at it. There has been considerable debate as to whether the Beaver will eat themselves out of house and home and be forced to move on, or whether they will carry on a sustained-yield cutting project, moving back and forth upstream and down. In the last four years they have built four new lodges—a new one each fall. Two of these houses were not entirely new, but built on the ruins of old ones. They do not hesitate to return to an old cutover area if there is any food available, so perhaps they will continue to do this indefinitely.



ALVAH W. SANBORN

**The New Trailside Museum at Pleasant Valley.**

The Sanctuary is rich in native flora. About 775 species of ferns and flowering plants have been catalogued. The many ferns enrich the beauty of the wooded trails. They are of such universal interest that many of the forms native to Berkshire County have now been brought together in our Fernery near the cottage.

Although Pleasant Valley is a splendid refuge for wildlife, I like to think of it as being much more than that. I like to think of it as a conservation and wildlife education center—an outdoor laboratory for Berkshire County—and to a considerable degree I think it is fulfilling this objective. We have 10,000 visitors a year, many of them casual visitors who come to see what it is all

about. To incite them to further interest we have long had our Nature Trail with its signs which tell about the different plants and animals along the way, and we now have our beautiful new Trailside Museum. The main function of the Museum is to explain in greater detail things to be seen out-of-doors at the Sanctuary and to arouse interest in wildlife and its preservation.

The outdoor laboratory is more fully understood when it is realized that more than five hundred school children are taken around the Sanctuary on guided trips in May and June. Most of these school children are taking their big two-hour field trip which concludes the special courses in Conservation and Natural Science presented by the Audubon Society. During the spring months each year the Sanctuary co-operates with the Berkshire Museum in giving a bird course for adults and a nature leaders' training course. And we also have many scout groups visit us. Some of the scouts merely want to hike, others come for a guided trip, and still others come in to have help in passing the various requirements for merit badges in nature study.

During July and August the great number of summer camps in the Berkshires take advantage of the Sanctuary. Some camps send their entire enrollment in small groups, to be taken on guided trips. This occupies a large part of the Director's time throughout the summer. The Audubon Society assistant has charge of the Natural History Day Camp, which has been operating for four years. So successful has this camp proved that this year we are adding a fourth two-week session.

What of the future? The Sanctuary is a beautiful, extensive wildlife area (covering nearly a square mile). It has an excellent Trailside Museum, one of the best in the country. It has a program already reaching many individuals, both inside and outside Berkshire County. Now that Pleasant Valley has become a Massachusetts Audubon Society sanctuary, with the backing of the Society's very large membership it can, and we confidently expect that it will, serve the public and the cause of conservation of natural resources in Massachusetts even better than in the past.

## The Future of Pleasant Valley

By C. RUSSELL MASON

*Executive Director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society*

The Massachusetts Audubon Society gladly accepts the responsibility for the future operation of the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, grateful for the excellent management of this fine property which has been accorded it by its directors and sanctuary superintendents in its twenty-one years of existence. It anticipates the loyal support that has always been evidenced by Berkshire County residents, with the additional backing of the wider membership of the Audubon Society in other parts of the Commonwealth and throughout the nation. The activities of Pleasant Valley through the years to come will be dependent upon the continued support of our membership and the active direction of the staff of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Certainly with the steadily increasing demand for education in conservation and the restoration of our natural resources, this Berkshire County sanctuary presents a splendid opportunity for acquainting our people with the possibilities and the necessity of conservation measures.

For the immediate future we would envision the steady continuance of

our grade school program as carried on cooperatively by the Society, the Sanctuary, and the Berkshire Museum. There is still room for expansion here however, as some school districts may decide to carry our program into other grades than at present, and as the few remaining towns in the region not having our program may request its introduction.

As schools and camps come to realize more fully the need for conservation and natural science teaching, there will arise opportunities to bring to more teachers and other leaders of youth the technique of presenting natural science in an interesting manner to children and adults, so that our Nature Workshop courses should be filled to overflowing, and more of them scheduled throughout the year.

Our Natural History Day Camps for children during the summer have been filled to capacity recently, and if the demand continues to rise, as we have every reason to expect, we will face the necessity of stationing more of our teaching staff at Pleasant Valley during the summer months.

The build-up of bird populations on areas where continuous feeding is carried on throughout the year indicates that this activity may need to be expanded at Pleasant Valley, thus adding to the enjoyment of visitors and demonstrating what may be similarly carried out on many home grounds. In this connection additional plantings of bird food plants should be a part of the demonstration, while the placing of additional nesting facilities should also be made a part of our program of development. With Pike's Pond and the beaver dams, bathing and drinking facilities are probably ample, except in the immediate vicinity of the Museum and superintendent's cottage.

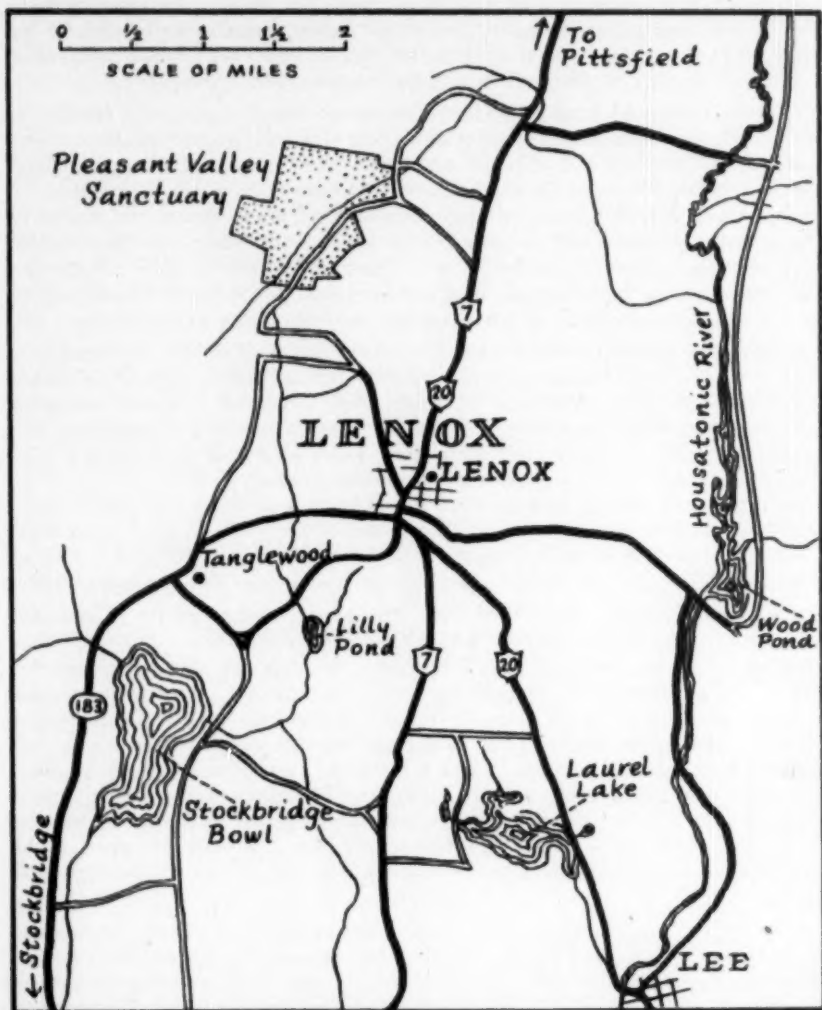
The large size of Pleasant Valley Sanctuary (approximately 640 acres or a square mile), and its interestingly varied terrain, makes possible a future "wilderness camping program" for youth which has not yet been attempted by our Massachusetts Audubon Society. For several seasons the teaching and sanctuary staffs of the Society have held a conference in June atop Mount Greylock. While this is a most attractive area in which to hold our meetings, it is anticipated that in June of 1951 our Audubon workers will use Pleasant Valley as their base of operations. The Board of Directors of the Society have already voted to hold their regular monthly meeting for October, 1950, at Pleasant Valley, during the height of the gorgeous fall foliage display there.

For many years a May "Bird Day" has been a feature of the Moose Hill Sanctuary program at Sharon, which draws a great many interested bird-watchers from the eastern part of the State. In 1951 we plan to extend this "Bird Day" program to include our other sanctuaries at Arcadia, Cook's Canyon and Pleasant Valley, to give more opportunities for our members and friends to enjoy the thrills of the May migrations at these favored spots. Additional bird observation trips will be scheduled as occasion arises, throughout the year, while during the winter months our lecture programs—our Nature Theatre and Tales of the Wildwood—may be arranged in Berkshire County as in other parts of the State. Audubon nature film programs will also now be available through our sanctuary superintendent and others of the Audubon staff.

It should be possible to greatly expand the reference library on nature lore and conservation at Pleasant Valley and through the beautifully planned Trailside Museum to provide opportunities for many visitors to the Berkshires to obtain a real knowledge of the interesting fauna and flora and other natural features of the western Massachusetts countryside.

Our able and efficient superintendent, Alvah W. Sanborn, who has been directing our Audubon program in the Berkshires as well as the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, has many projects in mind for possible development in the future, which however depend for their carrying-out chiefly upon the funds made available for that purpose by the Society. So we appeal for the real interest and continuing support of all our membership in this latest acquisition of the Society. *The future of Pleasant Valley depends upon you.* If you are not already acquainted with the beautiful Berkshires and especially with our charming "Pleasant Valley", put on your immediate agenda a visit there. Once seen, you will want to return again and again.

Pleasant Valley calls!



How to reach Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Lenox.



A. PALME

Pike's Pond at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary.

*Greetings from Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Inc.*

TO THE DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS  
OF THE MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY:

Now that the formalities have been consummated and Pleasant Valley Sanctuary is actually an integral part of your splendid organization, it is timely for me, I believe, to express to you our feelings of satisfaction and pride about our union. Every one of our Trustees, as well as all of our members whom we have been able to contact personally—and the number is large—join me in sending to you our greetings, together with our assurance of whole-hearted support of your policies and plans for the future. You have long had our good will, now you have also all our physical properties with which to carry on your work in this fertile field.

We here in the Berkshires are most confident that our united efforts can accomplish far more in the future than we could have accomplished alone, and you have a most loyal committee ready and willing to assist you in working toward this end. Without question, having your much greater resources to back up our homeland enthusiasms and ambitions cannot help but create a broader and more efficient Sanctuary, better in every way. For this help which you are offering we send our unanimous and sincere thanks.

Berkshire County is noted for being one of the most beautiful sections of New England. Possibly the autumn, with all the foliage coloring, is the most publicized, but I can assure you that the spring, with its bird songs and beautiful wild flowers, is a close second, while summer and winter alike each has its devotees among Berkshire residents and visitors. Lose no time in paying us a visit. We of Berkshire County want to become better acquainted with all of you, our fellow members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and to show you all that Pleasant Valley Sanctuary has and is, of which we are, we hope justly, so proud.

With sincerest greetings,

Lenox, Massachusetts  
May 16, 1950

(Signed) ROBERT CRANE, *President.*





S. WALDO BAILEY

One of the beaver ponds and a lodge at Pleasant Valley.

### How to Reach Our Sanctuaries

**MOOSE HILL SANCTUARY, SHARON.** U. S. Route 1 from Boston or Providence; Moose Hill Road turns east about one mile south of intersection with Route 27. Route 27 from Brockton or Natick to near Sharon railroad station, where look for signs.

**TERN ISLAND SANCTUARY, CHATHAM.** This island may be seen from Route 28 near Chatham Bars Inn, but it is a field laboratory of the Austin Ornithological Research Station at North Eastham and can only be visited by permission of the station superintendent.

**ARCADIA SANCTUARY, NORTHAMPTON.** Route 10 from Northampton or Westfield; 2.6 miles south of Northampton turn east on Lovefield St. .6 miles to Clapp St., left .6 miles to sanctuary road. Route 141 north from Holyoke through Easthampton to Route 10. U. S. Route 5 from Springfield to Route 141 or to Mt. Tom station and left on unmarked road to sanctuary road.

**NAHANT THICKET, NAHANT.** From Lynn Beach to Nahant; follow Nahant St. to Wharf St. and turn south to sanctuary.

**COOK'S CANYON SANCTUARY, BARRE.** Route 122 from Worcester or Orange; Route 32 from Palmer, Ware or Athol; Route 62 from Concord and Clinton; all pass through Barre Village. Sanctuary headquarters on South St., about one quarter mile south from Barre Common.

**PLEASANT VALLEY SANCTUARY, LENOX.** U. S. Routes 7-20 south from Pittsfield; watch for signs about one mile north of Lenox, leading right. U. S. Route 7 north from Great Barrington to Lenox Village where take Cliffwood St. to Pleasant Valley Road, or Route 183 through Stockbridge, past "Tanglewood" where take West Mt. Road north to Cliffwood St. and as above; look for signs.



## A Guide to Bird-Watching in Massachusetts

### Part V. The Connecticut Valley Flyway.

The Connecticut, or—as it was known to the Indians in pioneer days—“the Great River,” flows across Massachusetts at the bottom of a broad, shallow, troughlike valley for a distance of about fifty miles as the migrating waterfowl wing their ways north or south according to season, though its sinuosities add a few miles to the river's length as the canoeist follows its course. Its western tributaries—the Deerfield, Mill, and Westfield Rivers—have their fountainheads high up in the Berkshire highlands, from which they descend rapidly through picturesque gorges to the broad, fertile lowlands of the Connecticut; the two principal eastern affluents within the Commonwealth—the Millers River and the Chicopee—follow longer, more leisurely courses, through lower and less rugged hill country, from their sources in Worcester County. Long before the white man settled New England, the Red Indians had used the wide stream as a highway for their birch canoes, for trading and for raiding, but for uncounted centuries before the Indians the valley had undoubtedly been traversed throughout its length by the hordes of migrating birds. For the Connecticut Valley is an important link in the “Atlantic Flyway,” one of the main migration routes for the birds of North America. The path of this “flyway” extends across the southern Atlantic States, between the Appalachians and the ocean; but as the birds proceed northward in spring, some of the winged hosts are switched off to the northwest across West Virginia and Pennsylvania, others follow the Hudson River-Lake Champlain route to Canada, while still others swing northeasterly across New England. Some of the latter birds follow the coastal plain to Rhode Island, where they head across Massachusetts toward Maine and the Maritime Provinces; but a very considerable number of these New England migrants veer northerly across Connecticut, up the broad trough of “the Great River,” to central Massachusetts, to Vermont and New Hampshire, or on into Quebec. So the Connecticut Valley is a fertile field for the ornithologist during the spring and autumn migrations, when excellent “lists” may be obtained with a goodly number of species and of individuals. But a region which is only fifty miles wide from north to south, and with an altitudinal range of only a few hundred feet, cannot be expected to furnish a great variety in its resident or breeding bird population.

With one notable and man-made exception, the lakes or ponds of the region are small. The exception is the recently constructed Quabbin Reservoir, its water surface approximating forty square miles in area, which was formed by the building of Winsor Dam on the Swift River, drowning much of the valleys of this stream and its numerous small tributaries, and thus producing greatly altered habitats and ecological conditions in the area. Certain parts of the Quabbin shore line are open for fishing, and bird-watchers may visit these areas easily; special authorization is necessary if other parts are to be visited.

#### Literature

Bagg, Aaron C. and  
Eliot, Samuel A., Jr.  
Bagg, Aaron M.  
Smith, Rhea and Earl

Anderson, Paul K.

Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts.

Flight over the Valley. Bulletin, M.A.S., May, 1949.  
A June Trip Through the Harvard Forest. Bulletin, M.A.S.,  
June, 1949.  
Birding in the Quabbin Reservation. Bulletin, M.A.S., June,  
1949. (With Map.)



2. PETERSHAM. *Harvard Forest*: 2300 acres of demonstration woodlands, upland fields, boggy lowlands, with several small ponds; forestry museum; good birding locality, with several northern species nesting; Black and Wood Ducks, herons, American Bittern, Woodcock, hawks, Pileated and other woodpeckers, Olive-sided Flycatcher, thrushes, warblers, White-throated Sparrow S.

3. QUABBIN RESERVATION. About forty square miles of water surrounded by hilly, mostly forested land of mixed hardwoods, pine, and hemlock, with some recently planted spruce; water level 524 feet above sea, near hills up to 1281 feet; one observer listed 101 species recently; fast proving attractive to water and shore birds and waders; good hawk country with marked migrational flights; burned-over areas good for hawks and woodpeckers; Common Loon, Great Horned, Barred, and Saw-whet Owls, Hooded Merganser, Wood and Black Ducks, Duck Hawk (on Prescott Peninsula), Olive-sided, Alder, and Crested Flycatchers, many warblers, vireos, etc., Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-throated Sparrow S; Henslow's Sparrow decreasing, Prairie Warbler increasing, suggest the changing ecological conditions.

4. WARE RIVER VALLEY. South from Barre to Ware and Palmer, where, after being joined by the Swift River from Quabbin, the Ware unites with the Quaboag River to become the Chicopee; very good variety of birds possible; over one hundred species may be observed daily during the height of the spring migration. *Beaver Lake, Ware*: ducks, Ring-necked Duck M.

5. QUABOAG RIVER. Flows west through the Brookfields; wide, wet meadows should be attractive to water and marsh birds; grebes, loons, herons, egrets, gulls, all ducks, rails—especially Sora, American Coot, marsh wrens, etc. S or M.

6. PALMER. *Airport*: Prairie Horned Lark, Grasshopper Sparrow S.

7. SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT VALLEY. *Springfield Museum, Forest Park*: wintering Black Ducks and Mallards, occasionally Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, etc.; migrating land birds. *Agawam-Longmeadow*: lowest part of Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts; slight tinge of Carolinian fauna suggested; Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, American Merganser, Bald Eagle MW.

8. GRANBY. *Top O' Mountain Nature Preserve*, private, established by Burlingham Schurr: 350 acres mixed woodlands, fields, hills, ledges, swampy areas; excellent birding; Great Horned Owl, Ruffed Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker, hawks SW; Woodcock, Whip-poor-will, Nighthawk (flocks migrating), Hermit Thrush, Blue-headed Vireo, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, and Canada Warblers, and both water-thrushes SM.

9. HOLYOKE. Occasionally geese and ducks on the river during migrations. *Outlet Ashley Ponds Valley*: Blue-winged, Golden-winged, and Brewster's Warblers S; Louisiana Water-Thrush M. *Mt. Tom Golf Club*: hawk migration with southwesterly winds in spring. *Mt. Tom Reservation*: apparently best lookout in State for migrating hawks, especially in autumn; Duck Hawks have nested on Mt. Tom almost every year since the discovery there, May 31, 1861, of the first Massachusetts nest on record; Pileated Woodpecker, Louisiana Water-Thrush S.

10. EASTHAMPTON—NORTHAMPTON. *Arcadia Sanctuary of Massachusetts Audubon Society*: close to Connecticut River Oxbow and Mt. Tom Reservation; educational center for Society's natural science projects; mu-

seum and workshops; summer Day Camp for nature study; nature trail, memorial plantings and pool; interesting bird-banding carried on; ducks, rails, a few shore birds, hawks M; Spotted Sandpiper, Killdeer, Woodcock, Mourning Dove, Bobolink, Cedar Waxwing, Cliff, Barn, and Tree Swallows, and others, nest on or near Sanctuary.

11. HADLEY. *Mt. Holyoke Range*: another observation point for hawk migration; warblers, vireos, thrushes, etc., in migration and summer. *Sandy Beach*: diving and dabbling ducks, shore birds, blackbirds, swallows, warblers, etc. M; Ridgway's Grackle MS. *North Hadley Ponds*: good waterfowl area, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, rails, herons S; hawks, warblers M; sparrows and finches W.

12. AMHERST. *Amherst College Wildlife Sanctuary*: woods and open fields; good general birding. *Mt. Pleasant*: one of best localities for spring migrants. *Wildwood Cemetery*: warblers M. *Atkins Reservoir*: water birds, blackbirds, warblers. *Lawrence Swamp, South Amherst*: Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse, Pheasant.

13. PELHAM. Great Horned, Barred, and Saw-whet Owls, Pileated Woodpecker SW.

14. SUNDERLAND. *Mt. Toby Demonstration Forest, University of Massachusetts*: 755 acres, used for study of habitat conditions, etc.; several trails with good birding possibilities. *State Fish Hatchery*: excellent for spring migrants; bitterns, Louisiana Water-Thrush S; Winter Wren W. *Sunderland Waterfall*: migrants; Louisiana Water-Thrush S.

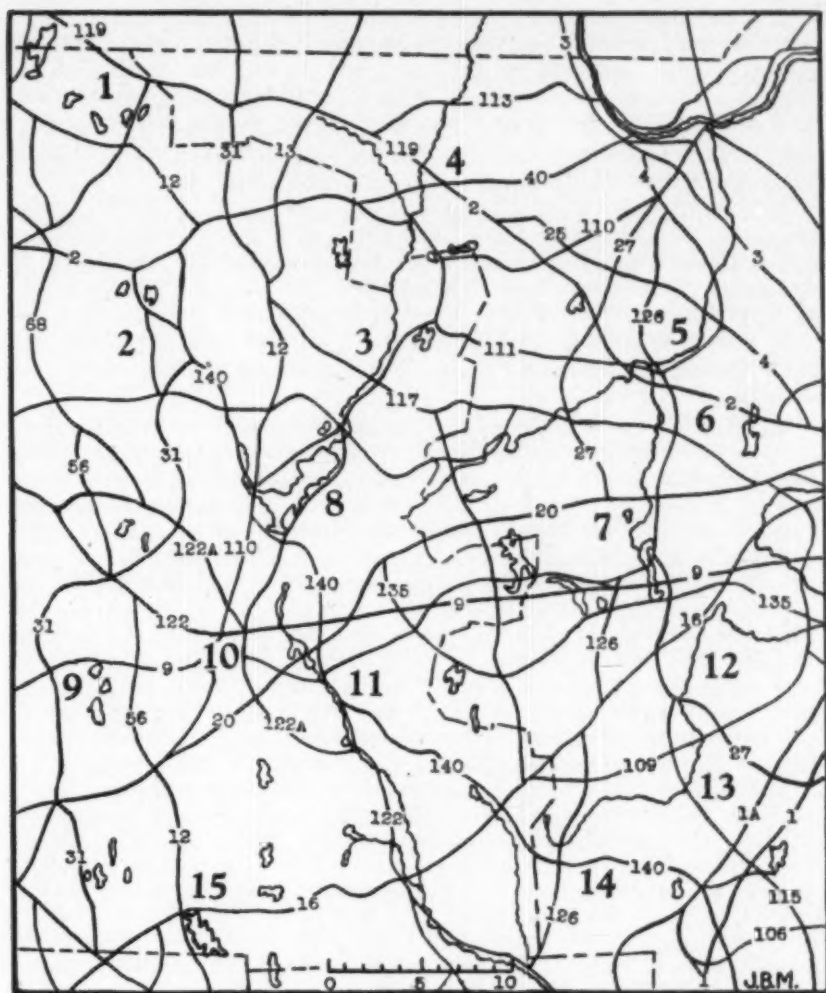
15. DEERFIELD. Fertile meadows, Bobolinks, sparrows, etc. S. *Mt. Sugarloaf, South Deerfield*: Duck Hawk aerie.

16. HATFIELD. *Slough*: ducks and marsh birds.

17. WORONOCO. *Mt. Tekoa*: Duck Hawk aerie (beware Rattlesnakes!).

## Part VI. The Heart of the Commonwealth.

This densely populated region, with its cities, mill towns, and country villages, its farms and country estates, still has large areas of woodlands, swamps, and open cultivated lands over which its bird life is widely distributed, with few points of special interest aside from its many waterways. Northern Worcester County is quite high, a peneplain of rolling hills and shallow valleys, the greatly eroded remains of a plateau of ancient geologic time, thinly covered today by a layer of more recent glacial deposits, above which rise a few monadnocks, Mt. Wachusett, 2108 feet, and Mt. Watatic, 1849 feet, standing out as notable high spots. From this peneplain small streams radiate in all directions—the Nashua flowing north into New Hampshire on its way to the Merrimack; on the east the Assabet and Sudbury unite to form the Concord flowing into the Merrimack near Lowell; and farther south the Charles rises near Bellingham and after many twists and turns finally reaches Boston Harbor; the Blackstone flows from near Worcester southeasterly to Narragansett Bay; the Quinebaug winds south and crosses Connecticut to meet the Thames and Long Island Sound; while small tributaries of the Chicopee, Ware, and Millers Rivers drain the western portion of the area into "the Great River" to the west. The largest natural lakes are Quinsigamond and a lake in Webster rejoicing in the euphonious Indian name of Chaugoggagogg-manchaugoggchaubunagungamaug, but the largest bodies of water are man-made, the Framingham and Wachusett Reservoirs of the Metropolitan Water System.



**THE HEART OF THE COMMONWEALTH**  
 Worcester County and western Middlesex

Biologically, this is a transition area with an overlapping of boreal and austral forms. High points to the north, like Wachusett and Watatic, are wooded with a birch-beech-maple-hemlock association, and here and in the cold white cedar (*arbor vitae*) swamps there is present in summer a slight tinge of Canadian Zone species, and we may find breeding the Goshawk (rarely), Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Olive-backed Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-throated Sparrow, and several northern warblers; near the lower stream valleys of the southern part of the area we may look for the Florida Gallinule, Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Carolina Wren, Blue-winged Warbler, and other southern forms.



## Literature

- Wetherbee, David Kenneth    The Birds and Mammals of Worcester County, Massachusetts.  
 Griscom, Ludlow                The Birds of Concord.  
 Riggs, Austen Fox, II        Notes on the Birds of Groton in Massachusetts.

1. ASHBURNHAM—ASHBY. *Mt. Watatic*: second highest point in Worcester County, 1849 feet; good birding accessible from Wapack Trail. *Willard Brook Reservation*: hemlock and mountain laurel habitat.

2. PRINCETON. *Mt. Wachusett Reservation*: highest point in Massachusetts east of Berkshire Hills; mixed woodlands typical of central New England; pink azalea, mountain laurel; wide range of birds possible because of altitude of summit; Pileated Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Olive-backed Thrush, Junco, etc. S.

3. NASHUA RIVER. *Between Clinton and Ayer*: dabbling ducks M; Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Pine and Prairie Warblers S, suggest possibilities.

4. GROTON. *Groton School Campus*: good especially in spring migration, about 100 species recorded; northern finches W. *Dead River*: an oxbow lake of Nashua River; Bittern, Wood Duck, Red-shouldered Hawk, White-throated Sparrow S. *"The Moat"*: flooded section between Groton and East Pepperell; good variety, Hooded Merganser, Wood Duck S.

5. CONCORD. Where the Assabet and the Sudbury unite to form the Concord, or Musketaquid, River. Griscom says of it, "the avifauna . . . is typical of the rural country of southern New England . . . There is no special abundance or variety of birds," then goes on to say it is an excellent locality for Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons, both bitterns, all freshwater and marsh ducks (very poor for the pond ducks), hawks in migration, rails ("one of the best in the state"), cuckoos and swallows; fair for birds of fields and pastures; very poor for hawks in summer, game birds, shore birds, gulls and terns, owls, and woodpeckers. *Great Meadows on Concord River*: now a Federal Wildlife Refuge; good waterfowl and marsh bird area; Wood and Black Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Pied-billed Grebe, King, Virginia, and Sora Rail, Florida Gallinule, both bitterns, Marsh Hawk, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow S. *Nine Acre Corner—White Pond*: river meadows, cultivated land, thickets; good for spring migrants, ducks, shore birds, hawks, swallows, sparrows M; three races of horned larks; Pipit, Snow Bunting, Snowy Owl, redpolls W; Bobolink S. *Sewage Disposal Area*: shore birds greatly increased. *Walden Pond Reservation*: scrubby woods; Hermit Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Prairie Warbler S.

6. LINCOLN. Still attractive habitats for upland breeding birds. *Weston Road*: Woodcock MS. *Farrar's Pond and Adams Woods*: Great Horned Owl, hawks, Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush S.

7. WAYLAND—SUDBURY. *Sudbury River Meadows*: particularly good in March and April, not so good in May; extensive river meadows often flooded, maple swamps, wooded knolls, pastures and farms; excellent for waterfowl and waders in migration; breeding rails, ducks, herons, marsh wrens, etc.; shore birds again in August and September; Snipe and Woodcock "songs" in spring. *Gulf Meadows north of Pantry Brook*: waterfowl, Yellow-legs, Snipe, hawks, swallows, etc., spring migration. *Upper Gulf Meadows*: Killdeer, Bobolink, Henslow's Sparrow S. *Rice's Farm*: "best observation post overlooking upper end of Sudbury meadows"; gulls, herons, waterfowl, swallows, etc. M; follow river channel for egrets, ducks, rails,



shore birds, etc. *M. Ford Ponds, Wayside Inn*: fresh-water ducks. *Road from Concord to Sudbury beyond Nine Acre Corner*: ducks, Snipe, etc. *Wayland, lower bridge*: good lookout over meadows for waterfowl, waders, hawks, swallows, in spring migration. *Heard's Pond and Pelham Island Road*: "the most diversified and interesting locality in the region" (R. J. Eaton); Griscom lists about eighty nesting species, including Black-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern, Blue-winged Teal, King Rail, Florida Gallinule, Warbling Vireo, Canada Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Bobolink. *Gravel pit west of river on Route 20*: Bank and Rough-winged Swallows, nesting.

8. WACHUSETT RESERVOIR, EAST and WEST WASHACUM LAKES. "This region can be absolutely marvelous to no good for loons, grebes, geese, ducks, shore birds, and gulls, depending on season, weather, and water" (D. H. Crompton); "best place in the county for Snow Goose, Baldpate, Pintail, and Green-winged Teal"; warblers in migration; Snow Buntings, redpolls, Lapland Longspur W.

9. SPENCER. *Sewer Beds*: one mile west, 100 yards north of Route 9. Snipe, phalaropes, shore birds, Northern Water-Thrush, Rusty Blackbird M.

10. WORCESTER. *Eastern slope Westwood Hills*: Indigo Bunting, Prairie and Golden-winged Warblers S; Woodcock M. *Tatnuck Country Club*: "always good." *Sewer Beds*: shore birds and fall warblers. *Curtis Pond*: feral Mallards, Black Duck, American Merganser W. *Peat Meadow and Newton Hill (Highland and Pleasant Sts.)*: May migration.

11. GRAFTON. *Quinsigamond River*: best in county for Wood Duck, good for others; swallows, Red-wings, Warbling Vireo, Grasshopper Sparrow S; warblers, especially Golden-wing and Wilson, in spring.

12. SHERBORN. *Rocky Narrows Reservation, on Charles River*: Trustees of Public Reservations; good general birding region.

13. MEDFIELD. *Rocky Woods Reservation*: Trustees of Public Reservations; well-named area, with several small artificial ponds; typical birds of southeastern Massachusetts. *Rhododendron Reservation*: Trustees of Public Reservations; fine stand native *Rhododendron maximum*, with some interesting birds.

14. FRANKLIN—BELLINGHAM—MEDWAY. Between the Blackstone and Upper Charles River watersheds; may show a tinge of southern fauna.

15. DOUGLAS—WEBSTER—SOUTHBRIDGE. Many ponds in this general region; general birding area, with water birds and marsh birds.

#### Next Bulletin in October

We remind our members that with the June issue of the *Bulletin* publication is discontinued until October. An announcement of coming events will, however, be mailed to all members in an August *Newsletter*.

Overheard on sidewalk outside Audubon House:

Little Boy: "Oh, Mummy, look at all the *real* dead birds in that window!"

### From Our Educational Department

Lois Birby's picture of her bird feeder, taken from indoors through a window, was one of the best brought in by participants in the wild bird photography contest held in my fifth and sixth grade nature classes. Her story and the picture prove that birds can be brought close even in built-up districts. Lois is a pupil in the Shattuck School, Norwood.

EMILY GOODE

#### My Bird Feeder

I have a bird feeder outside Mother's bedroom window. I feed the birds in the morning and at noontime. They keep me busy giving them wild bird seed and bread.

I have had sparrows, grackles, flickers, black-capped chickadees and pigeons visit the feeder.

One Sunday afternoon after I had waited about an hour for a bird to come I was finally lucky enough to get this picture of this bronzed grackle who seemed to be enjoying his afternoon snack.

LOIS BIRBY

The following expressions of nature interest by pupils in classes taught by Harry Levi, Jr., are encouraging.

#### What I've Learned in Nature Class

The woods are really an interesting home  
For birds and animals and all that roam.  
In Nature Class we learn of things  
That live on land and fly with wings.  
We learn how birdies build their nest,  
And why the skunk is such a pest.  
Many, many things I could mention,  
All of these would attract your attention.  
Just take a walk in the woods for a day,  
And you will learn a lot that way.

SHIRLEY JOHNSTON  
Eastham

#### Our Nature Class

I think that our nature class this year is a wonderful addition to our school schedule. Our nature teacher, Mr. Levi, comes once every two weeks and we have lessons on insects, birds, animals, trees, and plants. On good days the class goes out to look for seeds and plants. I have learned from nature class about many different plants and animals and also how to spot trees by their different leaves and needles. I think the classes are a very good thing, and, although I graduate this year, I hope that the school will keep on with the nature lessons.

SHARON TARVERS  
Grade 8, Eastham



### What Mother Nature Did For Us

If you would stop to think of what Mother Nature did before we were here, you couldn't think of anything that wasn't made out of her. Mother Nature doesn't always prefer animals. For instance, you take a car, and if you trace it back you would find metal comes from Mother Nature's bed, the ground.

But if Mother Nature wasn't here, this world wouldn't be one. You would have no clothes, or food, or any of the pleasures you have now.

Mother Nature gave us grass to make our homes look swell. She gave us trees, birds, and all kinds of animals. She even gave man his looks and intelligences. You really couldn't imagine what would happen if Mother Nature hadn't been here.

RICHARD BUCK, Grade 6, Chatham

### Why I Like Nature

I like nature because it's nice to know what God gave to us. For instance, there are flowers, grass, trees, birds, animals—He even made me.

We make nature books in the sixth grade. We put all those things in it. We paste all kinds of pictures in it. I love it.

DEANNE KELLEY, Grade 6, Chatham

### Nature

I like nature because it usually is pretty. One animal I like is the deer family. The deer are quite smart. When they sleep they hide in a thicket so no animal will find their babies. Last year I found some deer tracks and followed them. Soon I came to where a deer had slept, plus a nest of hornets. Did I get stung. When I got home I knew the deer were smarter than I, though, when I was following the tracks. One thing sure is, I like nature best of all my work.

RICHARD TRUESDELL, Grade 5, Cohituate

### Nature

I like nature because you can learn about birds, plants, trees, and other things too. You might pick a nice day to go into the woods. You will find different kinds of trees, plants, and birds. That's why I like nature.

One day while I was walking down into the woods I heard some chirping. It sounded as though a baby bird was hurt, so I hurried down to see. It was a baby bird. I put the bird in some soft grass, and then he died in a few minutes.

WAYNE SANDERSON, Grade 5, Cohituate

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### Remember These Dates!

- |           |       |  |
|-----------|-------|--|
| June      | 9-11. | Berkshire Campout.   |
| August    | 20.   | Field Trip to North Shore and Plum Island.   |
| September | 8-10. | Cape Campout.  |
| September | 17.   | Field Meeting, Northeastern Bird-Banding Association, Wharton Bird-Banding Station, Groton, Massachusetts. |

See notices in the *Bulletin* and August Newsletter; or write or call Audubon House.

### "Audubon in Massachusetts"

John James Audubon, after a most active life in bird observation and painting in America, and having achieved recognition as a bird painter throughout Europe, died on January 27, 1851. The date of the next annual meeting of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, January 27, 1951, will therefore be the centenary of Audubon's death.

During the entire month of January, the Society will plan to encourage a great program throughout Massachusetts featuring Audubon's life and works. Students of Audubon's life will be invited to speak at the annual meeting, and it is hoped at that time to have available a film on Audubon's travels to present to members of the Society who attend, and later to other groups throughout the State. It is possible that a direct descendant of John James Audubon may be present as a guest of honor at the meeting.

There will be open house on this date at all the Massachusetts Audubon Society sanctuaries, and an exhibit of Auduboniana, including many of his most famous pictures, will be on display at the annual meeting, to be later transferred for exhibit to Symphony Hall, Boston, and then to various art and history museums throughout the State.

In connection with the school program carried on by the Audubon teaching staff, there will be special programs relating to Audubon's life, and it is hoped that many organizations and clubs throughout the State will include in their programs something relating to this distinguished artist. The January number of the *Bulletin* will be a special Audubon Anniversary issue. Many well-known ornithological writers will undoubtedly take advantage of the year 1951 to bring Audubon and his work to the attention of the public.

In order to gather together as much material on Audubon as possible, it is earnestly hoped that any member possessing Audubon prints or any original material relating to Audubon will communicate with Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street, Boston, and offer the loan of such material for the month of January, 1951, or longer if possible. The program will be continued throughout 1951 but will be highlighted at the annual meeting on January 27.

### Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield

#### Summer Schedule

June 1 - July 2.	Portraits. Lent by Portraits, Inc.
June 1 - July 2.	Annual Exhibition by Berkshire Museum Camera Club.
June 1 - July 2.	Exhibition of Paintings by Ricardo Magni.
June 9, 10, 11.	Annual Campout of Massachusetts Audubon Society, sponsored by Berkshire Museum and Massachusetts Audubon Society.
July 5 - August 3.	50th Anniversary. Daniel Chester French Memorial Exhibition.
July 5 - August 3.	Color Photographs by Howard E. Foote.
July 22, 29.	10:15 A. M. Berkshire Bus Tours.
August 4 - 31.	Memorial Exhibition. Works of Albert Sterner.
August 4.	8:00 P. M. ANNUAL SUMMER MEMBERS' NIGHT.
August 5, 12, 19.	10:15 A. M. Berkshire Bus Tours.
August 17, 22.	8:00 P. M. First Annual Berkshire National Color Slide Exhibit. Berkshire Museum Camera Club in co-operation with Berkshire Museum and Berkshire Hills Conference. Closing date for submission of entries, August 8. Slides will also be shown elsewhere in the county between August 17 and 26.

(Watch papers for outstanding foreign and American professional feature films which will be shown at the Little Cinema.)

### Notes from the Sanctuaries

**COOK'S CANYON.** Four hundred plants for a wildlife border, mountain laurel to beautify the headquarters area, starting construction on a fern trail—these, plus the usual spring cleanup, highlighted the month of April at the Canyon.

Dr. Arthur B. Beaumont and F. C. Edminster have arranged for the Soil Conservation Service to provide the Sanctuary with seedlings for a demonstration wildlife border in the field near the headquarters building. The local agents of the Service, Rino Roffinoli and Roscoe Johnson, have drawn plans for the planting. A hedge of multiflora rose will eventually give abundant cover, while additional rows of silky cornel and high-bush clover (*Lespedeza bicolor* Natob and *Lespedeza japonica intermedia* Crider) will provide a much needed natural food supply.

Atop a pine-covered ledge in back of the headquarters is an old but well-constructed summer house. It has now been repaired and the electric lights reconnected in preparation for an active season. One flight of flagstone steps now leads to the summit; another shorter flight is being built to form a unit in a nature trail. This area is particularly suited to the growing of some of our rock-loving ferns. Already there is a natural growth of rock polypody, marginal shield fern, spinulose wood fern, and hay-scented fern. It is this area that prompted Mrs. Cook to call her home "The Ledges."

An attractive and appropriate entrance sign now aids visitors in locating the Sanctuary. The signs were the gift of Parker C. Reed and hang from a post topped by a lantern-type feeder donated by Donald B. Hyde. The adjacent area has been landscaped with mountain laurel given to the Sanctuary by Toivo Lamsa, of Westminster.

The Sanctuary is again indebted to Laurence B. Fletcher, who has added *Life Histories of North American Woodpeckers*, by A. C. Bent, and *Wild Animals I Have Known*, by Ernest Seton Thompson, to the library, and to Miss Grace Dickinson and her sister, the late Mrs. D. Edward Beede, for the gift of a number of books on natural history, including Cruickshank's *Wings in the Wilderness* and Kieran's *Footnotes on Nature*.

LEON A. P. MAGEE

**ARCADIA.** Swirling with a terrific roar from the near-by corn stubble to the tops of the maples, only to return soon in a gleaming black cloud back to the corn stubble, a migrating flock of grackles, estimated to number six hundred to a thousand, provided a thrilling spectacle during a six-day period in mid-April. The roar of rushing wings beat a tattoo on the mind that soon left an impression of power—the power of physical energy beating against the elements, to make patterns of light and dark against the sky which evolved and changed with the twists and turns of the flock, the whole being fluid and graceful as is a wind-swept field of golden grain or ripened grasses.

By contrast, the flock of sixteen Canada Geese that swept in low with set wings over headquarters on April 4 for a stop at Arcadia Marsh was quiet. Naturally there was considerable gabbling conversation between the members of the flock as landing instructions were discussed, but it was an orderly approach to a destination picked out long before they came overhead. The glide in was purposeful and remarkably well organized for such huge birds.



Other bird experiences for the month consist of such welcome, commonplace things as a Field Sparrow singing from an old apple tree; the satisfying color of three male Purple Finches together on a feeder; and the clean white eye-stripe and coal-black bill of the first Chipping Sparrow. In this category, too, was the clear, penetrating song of the White-throated Sparrow, heard on April 26 for the first time, and the picture of the lone Pine Siskin found by a visiting school class from Holyoke on April 17 feeding on the flower parts of a trembling aspen. Eight species of hawks were recorded during the month. They were: Sharp-shinned, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged, and Marsh Hawks, Osprey, Duck Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, and Sparrow Hawk, the last-named returning to nest again in the Wood Duck box.

Spring interest in birds and the outdoors is reflected by the annual visits of the fifth grade school children and other groups. The first of the school classes came on April 17, and each fair day will see others right through May. These girls and boys have been receiving the Audubon Course in Natural Science and Conservation since school began in the fall. They come to Arcadia with their teachers and are met here by Miss Mary Beitzel, Mrs. Pearl Care, and the Sanctuary Superintendent. Live birds from the banding cages and live birds at nest boxes and feeders animate subject material previously known only from pictures in books.

Sponsored by the radio program "Mark Trail" and the local radio station WHYN, a group of over forty boys from Holyoke and Northampton visited Arcadia on Saturday, April 22. As a gift of the program sponsor, all received a plastic binocular of two- or three-power, which actually did aid their observations of the wildlife. The radio program revolves around a game preserve, so it was easy for the Sanctuary Superintendent, ably assisted by three students from the University—Al Hawkes, Jim Baird, and Bob Woods—to interest them in our program of wildlife protection and management.

During the month Arcadia was visited by a Northampton Girl Scout troop and a den of Cub Scouts. We also were glad to welcome on their first visit a class in Ornithology as a Form of Recreation from Springfield College, led by Professor John Brainerd. Two programs were presented during April, one to the Girl Scout troop of Whately, the other to the Men's Club of Williamsburg.

The Advisory Committee of Arcadia held its annual Spring Cleanup Day on April 16. Nineteen were present, with the result that the trails were made more presentable, and other odd jobs accomplished. The major achievement of the day was the laying of a new piece of floor in the barn, which increased appreciably the area available for day camp activities and trailside museum exhibits.

A valve carelessly left open by an employee of the Norwood Ice Company resulted in fuel oil running into their ice pond, later to flow through Arcadia. The deadliness of petroleum products to wildlife was demonstrated as killed vegetation was later found and the carcasses of two muskrats. It is most likely that more muskrats were killed and their bodies disposed of by scavengers. No injuries to waterfowl were observed, but the carrying capacity of the marsh this coming summer and fall may have been impaired. Studies later in the season will tell the story.

EDWIN A. MASON

**MOOSE HILL.** April was very chary of warmth and sunny skies on Moose Hill, and when the spring migration of birds finally began to pick up momentum it was only natural that few if any early arrival dates were shattered. It seemed to be general opinion that the preponderance of cool and wet weather was reflected, not only in a somewhat retarded migration, but in a belated appearance of early wild flowers as well. Possibly it was only that rugged dweller among the swampy places along the Meadowbrook and Brewster Trails, the redolent but unassuming skunk cabbage, that kept pushing through on schedule despite the vagaries of the weather.

During the first week of the month the ubiquitous Goldfinches began to lapse into their spring molt, but by the end of April the disheveled garb of the males was quite completely replaced by a resplendent black and gold, and as they darted from one of the feeding trays into the overhanging yellow blossoms of the early blooming Korean dogwood (*Cornus mas*) it was spring indeed. On the 3rd a pair of Bluebirds was observed inspecting one of our nesting boxes, and a day later a Phoebe was minded to make similar exploratory sallies in and out of our barn door. Among bird songs that were gradually being added to the voices of the resurgent year, the performance of the Purple Finches seemed to prove particularly gratifying to most visitors. Out on the trails it was the deep-toned drumming roll of the Ruffed Grouse that elicited the most favorable comment. Almost no warblers had arrived by the month's end, but the rest of the avian fare on hand appeared more than sufficient to satisfy the tastes of the most discriminating birders.

Among the first blossoms to attract attention might be mentioned the red flush of the swamp maples, the brilliant yellows of the marsh marigold and aromatic spicebush, and the perhaps not as spectacular but just as rewarding pink and white shades of the trailing arbutus and the spring beauty.

April visitors to the Sanctuary greatly exceeded in numbers those of the preceding months of the year, and a cursory check of those signing the register indicates that groups or individuals from approximately eighty different towns, representing ten States, were attracted to Moose Hill. Included were visitors from such distant points as Coldwater, Michigan, San Francisco, and Havana, Cuba. Among the larger groups were a class of fifty students from Boston University under the direction of Dr. Reid of the Department of Education, and the natural history section of the Appalachian Mountain Club under the guidance of Harry Levi of the Audubon staff. One of the more intrepid groups that might be cited was the ornithology class from Wheaton College, which did not permit dour skies and an almost unceasing downpour to hamper their prearranged birding plans. Arriving in the rain in an open truck and dressed for the occasion, they probed the woodland trails for fair game despite the inhospitable conditions, and their efforts appeared not to have gone unrewarded.

ALBERT W. BUSSEWITZ

### Important Dates This Summer

- June 14-27. Natural Science Workshop, Cook's Canyon, Barre.
- July 3-15. Natural Science Workshop, Cook's Canyon, Barre.
- July 17-29. Wildwood Camp for Boys and Girls, Cook's Canyon, Barre.

For further details call or write Audubon House.

## Report of State-Wide Bird Walks

The State-wide Bird Walks conducted on May 13 in fifty-three cities and towns were very successful this year, and as the *Bulletin* goes to press forty lists have been turned in, recording a total of 192 species, nineteen more than last year.

Some of the walks began at dawn and continued until dusk. The best attendance was in Foxboro, where forty people participated in the walk led by Douglas Sands. Again this year the greatest number of species (112) was listed on the Ware trip, led by John H. Conkey and the Quabbin Bird Club. Marshfield again ranked second, with ninety-nine species, Miss Rosella Ames leading the walk. On this walk the youngest member, aged two, was responsible for the only White-throated Sparrow seen in his father's group. "There is a bird," said the little fellow; and it was the White-throat. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts attended the various walks.

In Fitchburg Miss Rachel Bruce, leader of the group, was watching a Swamp Sparrow close to the water's edge in a small stream when she saw a flash of yellow, and a Prothonotary Warbler flew up from the water where it had been bathing and perched on a small bush while it preened its feathers.

Evening Grosbeaks were still present and recorded on many of the walks. Highlights reported included the following: Yellow-crowned Night Heron (Marshfield); Mute Swan (Fall River); Least Bittern (Green Harbor); Baldpate (Rowley); Hooded Merganser (Quabbin area); Turkey Vulture (Quabbin area); Rough-legged Hawk (Chilmark); Bald Eagle (Quabbin area); Duck Hawk (Marblehead); Pigeon Hawk (Green Harbor); King Rail (Wayland); American Coot (Longmeadow); Upland Plover (Edgartown); Barn, Screech, Great Horned, Barred, Short-eared, and Saw-whet Owls; Nighthawk (South Hadley); Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (Middleboro); Alder Flycatcher (Fitchburg and Longmeadow); Olive-sided Flycatcher (Reading); Purple Martin (Middleboro and Foxboro); Bicknell's Thrush (Amherst); Northern Shrike (Foxboro); Warbling Vireo (Boston and Wayland); Prothonotary (Fitchburg), Tennessee (Quabbin area), Cape May Warblers; Orchard Oriole (Wayland and Foxboro); Summer Tanager (Marblehead); Red Crossbill (Marblehead); Lincoln's Sparrow (Quabbin area and South Hadley).

## Summer Symphony

By MARGARET WARREN

4:00 A. M. On a breathless June morning I take my front-row seat on the porch, waiting for my concert to begin.

4:15 A. M. A long, sustained, sweet call from the Song Sparrow in the hedge, and, as if waiting only for the signal, from every tree and shrub a chorus arises—no distinguishable song, but an accompaniment that keeps on without a break. Then a duet from a pair of Catbirds in the lilac bush. Not to be outdone, the Rose-breasted Grosbeak breaks in with his trills and flourishes, and the Orioles add their beautiful paeans, while from the woods below a pair of Wood Thrushes sing their heart-thrilling, muted song, and one little Chickadee offers his cheery note.

A Tree Swallow flies silently from the Wren house, where a pair have taken over, and starts the endless hunt for food for their hungry nestlings. How

they work! All day, and until after nine o'clock at night, the parent birds fly back and forth filling those waiting beaks.

Now a pair of Purple Finches join the chorus on their way to the seed basket, and two little Yellow Warblers, poised on the edge of the bird bath, flirt with the idea of an early morning dip.

The last to rouse is the Robin, who, with a scolding note—as if hating to be wakened so early—bustles from her nest in the vine over the porch. The Robins seem to have little friendly feeling for their feathered kind. They show a certain superiority and behave as though they own the bird bath, into which they dip so often, and scold if others come to take advantage of the refreshment offered.

A brilliant flash, and a tiny Redstart daintily splashes the water over himself. A House Wren chitters busily from a near-by shrub. And a lone cricket, deep in the shade, chirps away, not realizing that day has begun.

5:00 A. M. The concert is over, and all go forth to forage for "the early worm," the seeds, or the flies for breakfast. And a little striped Chipmunk steals out from the stone wall on the terrace to garner whatever may be spilled from the feeder.

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### Enroll at Audubon Camps for Pleasure and Profit

The Workshop and Camps of the Massachusetts Audubon Society offer opportunity this summer for teachers and other leaders of youth, also for boys and girls, to enjoy a rich experience in the out-of-doors. In the pleasant environment provided by Cook's Canyon Sanctuary, under stimulating leadership, and with comfortable quarters, one learns the principles and methods of conservation and restoration of our natural resources while enjoying the abundant bird life and beautiful flora of one of the finest regions in New England.

The Natural Science Workshop opens June 14 for its first session, and closes June 27. This session is primarily for camp counselors, although teachers and other youth leaders will also attend. The second session, from July 3 to 15, will enroll teachers and other youth leaders, as well as some nature counselors for camps.

At the close of the Workshop sessions, Wildwood Camp, a resident natural history camp for boys and girls from eight to twelve years of age, will be operated from July 17 to July 29.

Natural History Day Camps for children will be conducted again this season at Moose Hill, Arcadia, and Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuaries, also, new camps will be opened at Cook's Canyon and at the Palmer State Park at Topsfield. Descriptive circulars of all of these educational and recreational projects are available at Audubon House, and enrollments at all of these sessions are still being received.

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### News of Bird Clubs

The **Allen Bird Club** of Springfield announces the following field trips for June: June 3, to Wilbraham Mountain, on which occasion the Club will be guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Piper; June 10, all-day trip to Quabbin Reservoir, Cook's Canyon, and Harvard Forest, led by Dr. Edward A. H. Fuchs; June 16-17, Mt. Greylock and Pon-toosuc Lake, led by Robert D. Edwards.

A field trip to Paxton is scheduled by the **Forbush Bird Club** of Worcester for Sunday, June 11, with Lloyd S. Jenkins as leader.

The **Hoffmann Bird Club** of Pittsfield enjoyed three all-day field trips in May: on May 7 to Mount Hope Farm, on May 14 to Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, and on May 21 to Bartholomew's Cobble. An overnight trip to Mt. Greylock is planned for June 24.

## A Promising Young Bird Painter

BY ALVAH W. SANBORN



Last spring the Lenox (Mass.) Library exhibited some paintings of birds which were strikingly true as to color and form. I was surprised to learn that the artist was only fifteen years of age, and I determined to make his acquaintance.

Robert Verity Clem was born in Fall River, Massachusetts, in 1933.

His earliest recollection of an interest in birds dates back seven years, when one day on the beach at Chatham he picked up a bewildered little Semipalmated Sandpiper with only one wing. Not long after that he began to attempt the portrayal of birds with pastels. His art has evolved from pastels, to oils, and finally to water colors. Many of his paintings are based on sketches and field notes. When possible, of course, he prefers to paint direct from life. Recently he has even trapped the lowly English Sparrow in order to have a living subject. To say that he admires the work of the late Louis A. Fuertes would be understating the case, and, like Fuertes, his favorite group of birds is the birds of prey.

Several years ago Bob had a very fine experience at the Peabody Museum of Yale, where he received instruction in the making of scientific skins and the mounting of birds, and gained much knowledge of ornithology from Dr. Stanley C. Ball and Mr. Ralph C. Morrill.

Right now Bob is studying at Hamden (Conn.) High School and is working hard at his painting, with some expert coaching from Dr. George M. Sutton, himself a student of Fuertes. Bob hopes to make ornithology and bird painting a career. We should hear from him soon.

### Giving Versus Receiving

Perhaps one of the outstanding characteristics of an Audubon member is his altruism. He is a public benefactor. In a very real sense he is interested in membership in the Society, not so much for what it can do for him personally, but what he, through such membership, can do for others. He is a forward-looking citizen who recognizes, also, the need of active participation if the cause in which he believes is to prosper. And so it is on the broad and firm foundation of such a membership that the Massachusetts Audubon Society is able to maintain and continue to build its enlarging program for protection and restoration of wildlife and for conservation education. We are proud of our growing family of supporters and salute the spirit that responds to the challenge of the hour by this practical demonstration of interest and faith in the work we have set ourselves to accomplish.

We are happy to greet the following new members this month and are especially encouraged by the continued response from older members to meet the growing demands of our work.



A recent addition to our State-wide Membership Committee is our very active member Mrs. T. A. Gambino, of East Braintree.

#### Life Members

- \*\*Allison, Miss Mary Pardee,  
Northampton

#### Contributing Members

- \*\*Adams, Mrs. John, South Lincoln  
Grew, Henry S., Boston  
\*\*Prouty, Richard, Holden  
\*\*Ward, John, Boston

#### Supporting members

- \*Crawford, Miss Dorothy B., Cambridge  
Howard, Mrs. Eliot R., Concord  
\*Rowley, Mrs. Charles F., Chestnut Hill  
Thorp, Miss Alice A., Cambridge  
\*Williams, Miss Hilda W., Brookline  
\*Young, William H., Duxbury

#### Active Members

- Allen, Mrs. Edwin B., Troy, N.Y.  
Bandarra, Manuel, New Bedford  
Barnes, Miss Barbara, Gordonsville, Va.  
Barney, Mrs. Harold B., Hingham  
Barrett, Mrs. Leslie, New Haven, Conn.  
Bartlett, Mrs. Walter C., Milton  
Beecher, Miss Marion E., Littleton  
Brown, Mrs. Edward I.,  
Newton Highlands  
Browne, George, Seebe, Alberta, Canada  
Bruce, Henry S., Barre  
Bryan, Mrs. Kimball, Boston  
Buttrick, Mrs. Carlton E., Dedham  
Capron, Miss Lela B., Troy, N.Y.  
Chabot, Mrs. Greer M., Webster  
Christiansen, Mrs. Fred C., Malden  
Cockburn, Mrs. Mary, Melrose  
Cowden, Mrs. Fred F., New Bedford  
Cummings, Miss Anna B., New Bedford  
Davidson, Douglas T., Jr.,  
Wellesley Hills  
Dunn, Mrs. George A., Medford  
Edmunds, Robert A., West Harwich  
Eldredge, Mrs. Harold A., Newbury  
Evans, Mrs. Clarence, Norfolk  
Farr, Miss Elizabeth, New Bedford  
Files, Mrs. Joseph, East Braintree  
Fletcher, Miss Myrtle E., Troy, N.Y.  
Forbes, Miss Pamela B., Boston  
Fulton, Chandler M., Naugatuck, Conn.  
Gale, Miss Marion, Webster  
Glatfelter, Guy, Amherst  
Graham, Miss Mattie, Troy, N.Y.  
Gregg, Mrs. Donald, Wellesley  
Gustin, Miss Patricia J., Harwich Port  
Hall, Mrs. Joseph A., Brookline

\*Transferred from Active Membership

\*\*Transferred from Supporting Membership

- Harris, Arthur E., Lexington  
Hayes, Mrs. William A., Springfield  
Hersey, Mrs. Laura, Milton  
Hill, Miss Marjorie, Brookline  
Horne, Mrs. Herbert P., Malden  
Horan, Mrs. Timothy, New Haven, Conn.  
Hunter, Miss Anne, Chestnut Hill  
Hurley, Donald McK., Weston  
Johnson, Mrs. John Wesley, No. Quincy  
Joy, Roger T., Boston  
Kilcawley, Mrs. Edwin B., Troy, N.Y.  
Klebart, Mrs. A. Rodney, Webster  
Kyle, Miss Sally, Wakefield  
Lawida, Mrs. Marjery, Webster  
Lillie, Mrs. Charles W., Falmouth  
Luitwieler, Miss Ann, Winchester  
Lukens, Mrs. Philip, Norfolk  
Luquer, Miss Lilla R., Chestnut Hill  
MacLean, Albert, Lynn  
Mann, Mrs. Mary, Milton  
McSweeney, Miss Mary A., Dorchester  
Mendall, Ralph B., Jr., Chelmsford  
Myers, Mrs. Everett, Milton  
Page, Mrs. Newman, East Braintree  
Petherick, Harold F., Boston  
Phillips, Mrs. Henry J., East Braintree  
Poole, Mrs. Arthur, Centerville  
Putnam, Mrs. Theresa, Brookline  
Rasmus, Mrs. S., Milton  
Reeves, Miss Valmere, Boston  
Remington, Mrs. Holden, New Bedford  
Rockwood, Mrs. Clinton, Norfolk  
Rockwood, Mrs. Henry, Norfolk  
Rodriguez, Mrs. Robert A., Whately  
Rose, Mrs. Edward J., East Braintree  
Rowley, Herbert F., Harwich Port  
Russell, Mrs. Richard E., Whately  
Saltman, Mrs. Phillip, Brookline  
Sampson, Mrs. Clifford, Malden  
Sampson, Miss Martha, Auburn, Maine  
Scott, Mrs. Frank R., Malden  
Scott, Paul, Mt. Carmel, Conn.  
Shea, Mrs. John, Norfolk  
Sims, Miss Suzanne, Harwich  
Small, Miss Judith E., Harwich Port  
Smith, Miss Mary Alice, Worcester  
Sullivan, Miss Mary A., Allston  
Taylor, Mrs. Mildred L., Boston  
Turner, Hubert M., New Haven, Conn.  
Warren, Mrs. Charles B., Westfield  
Wayal, Miss Margaret, Fitchburg  
Wilber, Mrs. Raymond T., Auburndale  
Wilson, Miss Helene, Webster  
Wirkala, Mrs. Oscar, East Braintree  
Withington, Mrs. Robert, Northampton  
Woodworth, W. Lee, Wellesley

If Every Member Would Add a Member,

Think How Fast We'd GROW!

## Purple Martins In New Hampshire

BY HELEN B. FOSTER

*"The purple martin's undramatic ecstasy of the acrobatic."*

*Louis Untermeyer.*

During the past four years we have traveled many times the hundred miles to and from our camp on Lake Winnepesaukee by various routes. My careful watching for birdhouses on the way has resulted in my locating several Purple Martin colonies.

Between Epsom and Pittsfield on Route 28, the "Suncook Valley Route," there is a house of forty-eight openings which has been filled every year. The farmer there told us that the martins have been coming there over forty years and their arrival date never varies more than a few days. In the 1920's the colony was decimated by late frosts and heavy rainfall and many young martins starved in the nests.

About a mile north are two smaller houses which I have found occupied each year. The Pittsfield River flows through the valley and many martins are seen on the wires or flitting over the meadows and returning to the house to feed the nestlings.

In Northwood Narrows on Route 107, high on a hill, is a large keg-shaped house which had about twenty pairs of nesting martins in 1949. Another smaller house was occupied by Tree Swallows. The close proximity of Jenness's Pond may account for the birds' fondness for this vicinity, as I have often seen them skimming its shores.

The Purple Martins in Melvin Village first attracted my attention in the early mornings by their chittering over the tops of the tall pines near the water's edge. They often dipped down and snapped up insects and flies near the surface of the lake. After several attempts to follow their course, I found them located in a large communal house about a half mile away. All the openings were used in 1948, and a new house placed on the same lot the following year had about ten nesting pairs. A neighbor less than a quarter of a mile away has been unsuccessful in attracting them to her garden, though two fine large houses have been erected for their use. Both have been occupied by Tree Swallows using opposite sides of the structure.

I have made many inquiries in regard to nesting martins north of Essex County in Massachusetts, and though I have followed many leads they have proved to be Tree Swallows, Cliff (a fine colony in Newbury where cleats placed under the eaves aided them in their nest construction), or even Bank Swallows (using a road culvert in East Kingston, New Hampshire). I shall continue my search for new colonies this summer, and also check on the present ones, when I hope to get some camera shots of the nesting Purple Martins of New Hampshire.

(NOTE. There are several colonies of Purple Martins near Route 106 leading south out of Laconia. And one August I saw literally "thousands" of these valuable insect destroyers, gathering for migration and perched on guy wires supporting a factory chimney at Lakeport, between Paus Bay and Lake Opechee. J.B.M.)

### New Books

To the Editor of The Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society:

In response to Mr. Francis H. Allen's review of *The Maine Woods* (May, 1950, p. 175) will you permit your columns to present the following? Mr. Allen makes the point that it was a mistake not to use for the text the latest edition in which an attempt had been made to correct earlier errors. For example, he would have notes presenting a reidentification in the light of later knowledge of Thoreau's List of Birds. Another would want similar treatment of the List of Indian Words. I submit that the proper place for such meticulousness is in the pages of a learned journal. This problem—which, let it be said in fairness, was squarely faced—has a more serious aspect. In this whole business of any attempted subsequent correcting of an earlier text, there is the very real risk that the end result is not correction but corruption. Particularly is this so with *The Maine Woods*, one of the great charms of which is that it is of a piece with its period.

In an important particular Mr. Allen is gravely in error. He states that "... Joe Aitteon . . . the Indian guide of 1853 . . . suddenly becomes [sic, at page 18] Joe Polis, the guide of 1857." This is *not* the fact. Particular care was taken with this point. Joe Aitteon—Thoreau's guide when a-moose-hunting—does not appear in the text until p. 55 in connection with that excursion. Moreover his appearance is there fully explained.

The erroneous identification of *Mimulus ringens* arose out of a misleading portion of the text and has already been corrected in later printings.

DUDLEY C. LUNT

**MOOSE COUNTRY.** By Sam Campbell. The Bobbs-Merrill Company. Indianapolis. 1950. 235 pages. \$2.50.

"Adventure" is a relative word. These canoe-trip adventures of a boy named Hi-Bub with Sam Campbell in the north lake country will be found mild by young television addicts—no guns, no gangsters, no man-eating tigers. But, for the right kind of reader, one real Moose in his native muskeg is worth a whole herd of Metro-Goldwin elephants. Sam Campbell makes the Moose very real. And Hi-Bub's thrill over the whole expedition—from the moment when he learns he can go to the climax when his hand actually touches the nose of a wild baby Moose—is so real that the reader pretty much feels he's been along.

Sam Campbell has written a number of books in a "Forest Life" series, and, judging by this one, they are the kind of books which can be warmly recommended to the right kind of readers, old and young. They are not for sophisticated youngsters who are bored by "nature," nor for adults looking for polished prose. They are at times on the sentimental side. But no one who has the real wildlife interest can fail to be drawn by the "Forest Philosopher's" genuine passion for birds and animals, or absorbed by his stories about them. He is a trustworthy naturalist, with a gift for putting color and enthusiasm into his observations without abusing the facts.

As an author, and probably even more as a lecturer, Sam Campbell must be doing great service in the cause of saving the wilderness area left in the lake region of northern Minnesota. He is a passionate advocate of leaving these lakes and forests "undeveloped"—not so much, one feels, to save the trees or protect the animals as to leave an unspoiled sanctuary for the human spirit.

ELIZABETH V. FOSTER

**IN WOODS AND FIELDS.** Written and illustrated by Margaret Waring Buck. Abingdon-Cokesbury Press. New York. 1950. 96 pages. \$3.00.

Nature is so generous that a child or an adult who is just becoming aware of the richness in fields and woods may not know where to begin. Shall he study ferns or flowers, birds or butterflies? After reading this book, he should be well launched and ready to observe with understanding.

The author states that her book is for beginning naturalists as well as for boys and girls, and that the text and illustrations are as accurate as if done for scientists. The two hundred and thirty black and white drawings are of large size and yet detailed, and there is one for each item described, which gives one or two pictures for each tall page. Each season has its own section, and then there are further divisions into localities—by a stream, in the woods, or in the fields.

The text uses no story to entice readers but leaves that to the clear and well-printed illustrations and to the straight flow and pleasing rhythms of the descriptions. The items are not so bluntly dealt with as in a guidebook but read clearly and pleasantly: "Where the stream broadens into a quiet pond, the water lily grows." "Evergreen trees have needles or scales instead of wide leaves." "A large blue-gray bird with an upstanding crest." "Several kinds of fritillary butterflies fly over the field flowers."

Information and poetry are hand in hand in both the text and drawings.

CORA B. WELLMAN

**AN INTRODUCTION TO BIRDS.** By John Kieran. Illustrated by Don Eckelberry. Garden City Publishing Company. New York. 1950. 77 pages. \$2.00.

John Kieran's name would alone be enough to attract attention to a book on birds, but this *Introduction* is not dependent on the Kieran name to make it noteworthy. It is extremely well done and a welcome addition to the bird books sure to encourage beginners in their observations.

In order to avoid confusing the novice with a multiplicity of species, Mr. Kieran has carefully culled the North American bird lists to select what he considers the one hundred species most likely to be seen commonly. The birds are listed more or less in the general order in which one might expect to see them as he begins to look for them in the garden, field, or on the shore. Naturally enough, the American Robin comes first, with the English Sparrow, Starling, Blue Jay, and Crow following in quick succession; and among the species listed at the end will be found the less commonly seen hawks, game birds, the Turkey Vulture, and the Bald Eagle. Fortunately, some of the most colorful species have been selected from all parts of the country, so that, not only are eastern birds represented, but interesting species like the Yellow-headed Blackbird, Western Tanager, Bullock's Oriole, and Road Runner.

From his wide experience in the out-of-doors, Mr. Kieran writes most enthusiastically about the species described, and he brings a great deal of information of value to the beginner, and even to some of the more seasoned bird-watchers.

Some may differ with the author in his selection of birds, perhaps because of their experience in another part of the country or the type of environment in which they are accustomed to do their bird-watching. It is impossible to satisfy completely the great army of observers.

The illustrations by Don Eckelberry are all that could be desired, and the publishers are to be congratulated on the excellent color work that has brought out his subjects so beautifully.

Altogether, *An Introduction to Birds* is a perfect book to put in the hands of that friend or neighbor you wish to interest in birds, to be followed, as their knowledge increases, by a Peterson Guide, and you'll have some full-fledged enthusiasts that should add much to bird knowledge and their own pleasure in the field.

C. RUSSELL MASON

### Journalism

I do not read the paper —  
My Daily is the sun;  
Laid across my doorstep,  
After the day's begun.  
The robins give me all the news,  
For gossip, there's a wren;

A catbird's editorial  
Mocks the ways of men.  
Of parlous situations,  
There's much to fill the ear;  
But if a thrush begins to sing,  
Heaven's near!

JANET MORGAN

### "Oh, to be in England, now that April's there!"

Winchester, Hants, England, May 23, 1950

Dear Mr. Mason:

It has been so perfect to be in England in Spring—and especially such a beautiful Spring as this has been—and to see and hear the British birds. My great desire was to see Gilbert White's Selbourne and the Nightingale, and to hear the latter sing. And the most perfect thing happened!

I was taken to Selborne one beautiful Saturday afternoon—passing the old mill house where Field Marshal Montgomery now makes his home—and I spent the night and Sunday at an old inn where W. H. Hudson had stayed. But it was so lovely out-of-doors that I spent every moment of daylight walking the paths Gilbert White had helped to make, as a boy, up through his beloved Hanger and through the old churchyard, where the twelve-hundred-year-old yew tree stands.

And the climax of that most perfect day was to see and hear my first Nightingale, up in that Hanger!

I knew you would be glad for me, so I'm sending this personal account to you.

Very truly,

Edna F. (Mrs. V. R.) Sayward.

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June 17, all day. Sharon. Miss Hurley, JAmica 4-1540.

June 24, all day. Bedford to Carlisle. Miss Barry, MEIrose 4-5888.

Afternoon. North Lexington. Miss Lawson, CApitol 7-5618.

*The Club will schedule Saturday walks and evening walks through the summer.*



## LETTERS

## A Wintering Hermit Thrush

Dear Mr. Mason:

We are enjoying our usual influx of Evening Grosbeaks along with about a dozen Purple Finches, Juncos, Tree Sparrows, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Downy Woodpeckers, but have only one Goldfinch occasionally.

You may remember our neighbor Mrs. Robert Holt wrote of a Hermit Thrush which she had at Christmastime but has not seen since. We are wondering if the Hermit we discovered eating the red berries off the wreath on our front door on January 24th could be the same bird. Anyhow we have been much entertained by our bird because since that date it has been with us practically every day in all kinds of weather, and has become accustomed to all kinds of food.

Suet appeals to it but it finds it hard to hang onto the tree trunk like Downy. It has become quite fearless and frequents the window feeders where it seems particularly fond of peanut hearts, which it picks up with the same enthusiasm as does the Tree Sparrow. It is also equally at home with the Juncos on the snow when we scatter seed there. It is certainly democratic, for it consorts with a bunch of English Sparrows quite contentedly, though if one of them gets in its way it sticks out that sharp bill (which looks like a rapier compared to the Junco's) and charges and the Sparrow fades!

Anyhow it's interesting, and we have been astonished at the adaptability this bird has shown. We are, however, disappointed that we have had no Pine Siskins, redpolls, crossbills, or Pine Grosbeaks—not to mention the Snowy Owls which were to be so plentiful.

Sincerely,

Francis S. Dane

Lexington, March 2, 1950

## Field Notes

The Quabbin Bird Club conducted its third annual April Census and listed seventy-seven species, sixteen of which were new for the census. The list included eight ducks, the CANADA GOOSE, eleven diurnal raptors—including two BALD EAGLES and two TURKEY VULTURES—and four OWLS.

An adult HOODED WARBLER was seen in the Boston Common, opposite the Colonial Theater, on Sunday, May 7, at 6:30 A. M., by Sheldon Lewis, of Brighton. Later the bird was seen by several observers.

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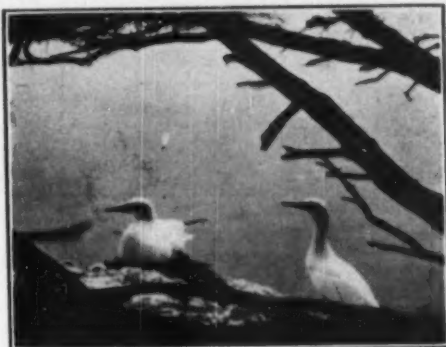
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### Field Notes

Word comes from Leslie Campbell that a **HOODED MERGANSER** has been found nesting at Quabbin, one box being occupied by this bird with a clutch of fourteen eggs. Another box intended for **Wood Ducks** has been taken over by a **SAW-WHET OWL** which is now raising its young, while a third is the residence of a **SCREECH OWL**. Many other boxes are occupied by **WOOD DUCKS**.

As many of our members know, Tern Island, just off Chatham, an Audubon sanctuary, contains one of the finest nesting colonies of **TERNS** along the Atlantic coast. It is well administered by the Honorary Warden Dr. Oliver L. Austin, of The O. L. Austin Ornithological Research Station, North Eastham. An interesting note which was published in *Bird-Banding* emphasizes the splendid records from banding which Dr. Austin has accumulated over many years. A Common Tern which was banded while a chick on Tern Island, July 4, 1929, was retaken at Billingsgate Island, June 18, 1938, and again at Tern Island, June 18, 1941, June 18, 1944, and June 22, 1949. The last recapture gives evidence that the bird lived more than twenty years.

An **AMERICAN EGRET** was seen in the South Hanson Swamp on April 8 by Raymond J. Seamans.

Adrian P. Whiting reports that during April he twice saw a **WOOD DUCK** on the chimney of a neighbor's house in Plymouth, and one was also seen perched on the chimney of a house in another part of the town.

Clinton Andrews reports seven **WILL-ETS** in Nantucket on April 27.

A male **BLUE GROSBEAK** was seen in Milton on May 2 by Thomas Morrison.

Dr. C. F. Walcott saw four **RED CROSS-BILLS** in Cambridge on April 2.

Nine **BRANT** were seen in Wollaston Bay on April 8 by Dr. Stanley Cobb. They were still there on April 19 and observed by members of the South Shore Bird Club on a field trip.

An adult **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**, a sick bird, was caught in a marsh in Tewksbury on April 9. The bird died on April 10, according to report sent in by Oscar Root.

A **BLUE-HEADED VIREO**, singing, was seen in Cambridge on April 16 by Thayer Scudder.

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### Field Notes

An AMERICAN EGRET was seen in Marshfield on April 24 by Mrs. Dorothy Fordyce.

Mrs. Harold A. Kaler, of Weston, reports feeding sixteen PINE SISKINS throughout the month of April.

The Brookline Bird Club reports the following birds seen on their field trip of April 15: four SNOWY OWLS at Newburyport; one SNOW GOOSE at Newburyport in flock of 850 CANADA GESE; an AMERICAN EGRET at Ipswich; five ICELAND GULLS at Plum Island.

A WHITE-THROATED SPARROW wintered at the home of G. Farnham in Bangor, Maine, according to report of Mrs. Paul Hannemann. During four cold spells the bird sought shelter in the cellar. It had food and water, ate, and bathed. When the weather grew warmer outdoors it grew uneasy and had to be let out.

Maynard W. Peterson, of New London, Connecticut, writes us that on April 16 he and his wife and daughter watched eight RED CROSSBILLS near their home prying open the cones of a Norway pine.

Three RED CROSSBILLS, one a red male, were seen in his yard on April 28 by George A. Drew, Jr., of Belmont. Two of the birds were coming to a bird bath. As they flew off, all three gave the loud *jip-jip* call notes. Mr. Drew thinks it is possible these were the same Crossbills seen by Kimball Elkins in Belmont about a month earlier.

Two comparatively early WHIP-POOR-WILLS were heard in Westford (along the Providence Road) by George A. Drew, Jr., on May 6, and a RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD appeared in his garden in Belmont the morning of May 8.

Mrs. M. H. Vincent, of Chilmark, writes us as follows: "The CAROLINA WRENS are nesting in a window box at Menemsha. Three young can be seen in the nest, and the parent birds are not very shy. The sixth wren was heard but not seen in the Windygates woods about two miles from the nesting wrens at Menemsha."

Lester Marland, of Ware, has been doing considerable banding of birds at his feeding stations this past winter. He wrote on April 30 that he caught his first hawk the morning before—a male PIGEON HAWK—which apparently went into his drop trap after either a grosbeak or a siskin. After taking the Pigeon Hawk from the trap and banding it, Mr. Marland showed it to other interested bird-watchers in the locality before turning it loose.

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### Field Notes

The Chairman of the Membership Committee of the Society, E. C. Johnson, who is also President of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, keeps busy at home taking a record of his birds and other animal visitors. We learn from his column in *Best of all News* that as soon as the ice went out of his pond in Wellesley a pair of ducks came for a visit, and that the PHOEBES that build each year under the bridge on his place showed up on March 29 together with COWBIRDS. The Johnsons have also had a few PINE SISKINS among the GOLDFINCHES and PURPLE FINCHES that have come to their feeding station, and they are keeping their eyes open to see if "Bobby Coon" returns for his usual evening meals.

On April 3 over four hundred SNOW GEESSE spent most of the day on the rapidly disappearing ice of Quabbin Reservoir, about two miles north of Winsor Dam. They were seen and heard by Leslie Campbell, Girard Albertine, and Esther and Donald Sampson. On April 30 Girard Albertine and Leslie and Lorraine Campbell saw four TURKEY VULTURES near Pattapaug Pond in the Quabbin Reservation. As they were soaring about, a ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK in the light phase joined the vultures briefly.

A PROTHONOTARY WARBLER was seen by the Essex County Ornithological Club in Topsfield on Saturday, May 20, while on their annual canoe trip on the Ipswich River. Another Prothonotary and a HOODED WARBLER were among the interesting birds seen by the Connecticut Valley Campout group of the Society on May 20. A third Prothonotary was seen at Fitchburg on May 13 by Miss Rachel Bruce.

A RED-HEADED WOODPECKER was reported at Bulrush Farm, North Scituate, visiting the feeding station of Mrs. Andrews Wyman, on May 18.

Interesting birds recorded during April by Mrs. Walter Gropius, of South Lincoln, include TREE SWALLOW (April 1), NORTHERN SHRIKE (April 8), FOX SPARROW (April 13), BLUEBIRD (April 13), COWBIRD (April 13), RED-WING (April 15), WOODCOCK (April 26).

A SORA RAIL was seen on Sunday, May 7, in the Nahant Thicket. It was first discovered by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Weeks. The bird stayed there all morning and was photographed by Arthur W. Argue.

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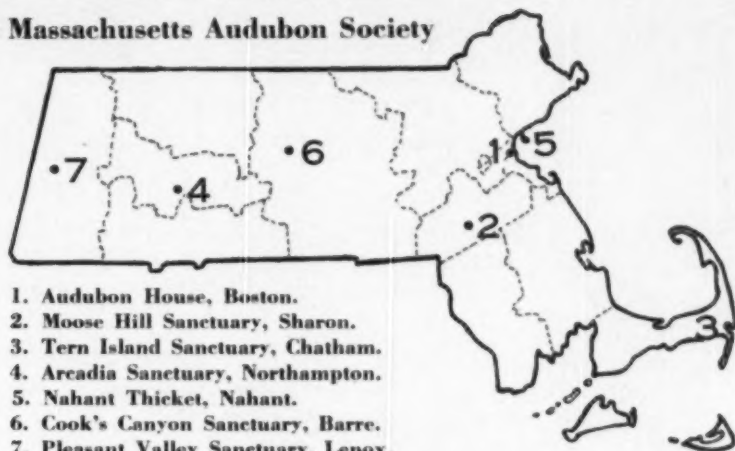
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